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GECKOS

Robust Velvet Gecko

Amalosia robusta

Amalosia robusta is a sturdily built, nocturnal gecko from eastern Australia with pale spots on a grey or dark brown back and a flat, broad tail. It climbs on rocks and tree trunks and copes in both forest and the edges of towns. Its care is only sparsely described and is based on closely related species.

Family: Diplodactylidae English name: Robust velvet gecko Former name: *Nebulifera robusta; Oedura robusta*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-18 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-65%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-5**
Incubation	**60-65 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The care of *Amalosia robusta* is only sparsely described, and the figures in the guide are borrowed from the closely related *Oedura castelnaui*, *Oedura monilis* and *Oedura tryoni*, which live in almost the same way.

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure should be 22-27 °C, and under a heat source at one end it can be 30-33 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 16-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity is kept at 40-65 %. Mist one half of the enclosure thoroughly every second day in summer, so the substrate dries out during the day, and keep it drier in the cool months.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and does not require UVB, but a weak UVB tube for shade-dwelling animals (Ferguson zone 1) over one side of the enclosure gives a more reliable calcium metabolism, as long as there is shade and cover.

FEEDING

Amalosia robusta takes any suitable insect food: crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches and small mealworms. Prey should be smaller than the distance between the eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is territorial and is best kept singly or as a pair. Males must not be kept together. The animal is fast and can drop its tail, so it should not be handled more than necessary. Never grab the tail.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.