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GECKOS

Blaesodactylus boivini

A large, tree-climbing gecko from northern Madagascar with soft, velvety skin. It is regarded as nocturnal, but often sits out in the open and basks by day, and it does well in a dry, airy enclosure. It is rare in captivity, and experience with it is limited.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Platydactylus boivini; Homopholis boivini*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**45-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**120-180 days** at 25-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). Two animals can be kept in about 60 × 60 × 90 cm and three in about 90 × 90 × 120 cm.
TEMPERATURE	*Blaesodactylus boivini* is kept at ordinary room temperature with a warm spot high up on a cork ledge at about 32 °C. The animal basks here, and the ledge is used often.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity is 45-55 % for most of the day, corresponding to ordinary room air, and rises briefly when the enclosure is misted.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Because the animals sit out in the open and bask by day, they need UVB light.
FEEDING	A prepared diet for fruit-eating geckos, mixed with water into a thick paste, is the staple diet, and the animals take it readily. Serve it in a small dish high up in the enclosure, and remove leftovers after a day.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Blaesodactylus boivini* is a large and calm gecko, but it is not intended for daily handling. The animals often sit openly in view, including during the daytime. The safest approach is to keep each animal separately.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.