herpy

GECKOS

Chameleon gecko

Carphodactylus laevis

Carphodactylus laevis is a slender, nocturnal gecko from the rainforests of north-eastern Queensland. It has long, thin legs, claws on the toes, a crest along the back and a carrot-shaped tail, and is built quite differently from most geckos. Captive-bred animals are hardy and breed readily, but the species is still rare in captivity.

Family: Carphodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**11-13 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 35 × 70 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-22 °C**
Humidity	**75-100%**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**4-6**
Incubation	**90-133 days** at 21-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Carphodactylus laevis needs a tall enclosure that gives the animals room to keep out of each other's way. A pair can be kept in at least 50 × 35 × 70 cm (length × width × height), and more is better if there are several animals.

TEMPERATURE

Carphodactylus laevis has low heat requirements. By day the enclosure should be at 22-28 °C, and at night the temperature drops 5-6 degrees, to around 16-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity is critical for *Carphodactylus laevis* and must stay at 75-100 % at all times. Mist the enclosure thoroughly with lukewarm water every day, and pay particular attention to humidity in hot, dry weather.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Carphodactylus laevis is nocturnal and lives hidden by day, so UVB is not necessary. Daylight from a nearby window is enough; otherwise a weak LED light or fluorescent tube.

FEEDING

Carphodactylus laevis is not fussy once it has settled into captivity. Crickets can make up almost the whole diet, preferably supplemented with cockroaches. Feed 2-3 times a week.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Carphodactylus laevis is quiet and hidden by day and becomes active a few minutes after nightfall. It then settles on a branch or piece of bark and often stays there for hours.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.