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GECKOS

Bibron's thick-toed gecko

Chondrodactylus bibronii

A robust, nocturnal rock gecko from the Karoo and the arid regions of southern Africa, with thick toes, knobbly skin and dark crossbands. It is hardy and easy to keep, but is often sold under the wrong name: many animals in the trade are in fact the closely related *Chondrodactylus turneri*.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Pachydactylus bibronii; Pachydactylus bibroni; Tarentola bibronii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-23 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-6**
Incubation	**45-60 days** at 27-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	One adult or a pair needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 40 × 40 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better.
TEMPERATURE	The species copes with ordinary warmth as long as part of the enclosure is warmer than the rest. Keep 24-28 °C during the day with a warm corner of 30-33 °C, and let the temperature fall to 19-23 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species belongs in arid regions, and the terrarium should be dry and airy with a humidity of around 30-50 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not need UVB when the insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3, but many animals in captivity like to bask under a weak light.
FEEDING	The gecko is an insectivore and takes almost anything it can overpower. Crickets and mealworms are the classic staple, supplemented with locusts, dubia roaches and, once in a while, wax moth larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is territorial, and adult males fight, often losing toes or pieces of skin. Males must therefore never be kept together. One male can be kept with two or three females if the terrarium is large and has many hides.
NATIVE RANGE	South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.