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GECKOS

Chondrodactylus fitzsimonsi

Chondrodactylus fitzsimonsi is a sturdy, nocturnal rock gecko from the arid regions of Namibia and south-western Angola, with an olive back, dark crossbands and broad adhesive lamellae under the toes. Almost nothing is known about its care, but its close relatives are widely kept and give a good picture of its needs.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Pachydactylus fitzsimonsi; Pachydactylus laevigatus fitzsimonsi; Pachydactylus laevigatus tesselatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert, savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**50-60 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	Almost nothing is known about the care of *Chondrodactylus fitzsimonsi*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 25-28 °C, and under a spotlight a stone should be able to reach 32-35 °C, so that the animal can choose between warm and cool. At night the temperature should fall to 18-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air should be dry, around 30-50 %, as in its natural range. Mist lukewarm water over part of the enclosure late in the evening so that the animal can lick the droplets, and let the substrate dry out again during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and sleeps in the crevices by day, so it does not need strong light. Provide a 12-hour day and complete darkness at night, controlled by a timer. UVB is optional.
FEEDING	The animal eats live insects: crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers and mealworms. Adults are fed 2-3 times a week, young animals more often. The insects must be no larger than the width of the head.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The behaviour of *Chondrodactylus fitzsimonsi* in captivity is not documented. Its relatives are shy, fast and unpredictable, so the species is for watching and not for handling. Keep the animals singly or in pairs.
NATIVE RANGE	Namibia and Angola.