herpy

GECKOS

Psychedelic rock gecko

Cnemaspis psychedelica

Cnemaspis psychedelica is a small, diurnal rock gecko found only on two granite islands in southern Vietnam. It has orange limbs and tail, a blue-grey to purple body and a yellow net across the nape. The species was first described in 2010, is threatened and is listed in CITES Appendix I, so in practice it is only for specialists and conservation programmes.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**6-7 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 70 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**27-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**24-28 °C**
Humidity	**65-85%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**11-16 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-103 days** at 27-31 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Cnemaspis psychedelica is so rare and so strictly protected that only a few animals are kept outside conservation programmes.

TEMPERATURE

Keep *Cnemaspis psychedelica* at 27-31 °C. This corresponds to conditions in the wild, where the air temperature averages 29 °C and the substrate about 27 °C, with small fluctuations over the year and only slightly cooler nights.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Keep the humidity at 65-85 %, preferably around 75 % with a misting system, which also dampens the temperature.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Cnemaspis psychedelica is diurnal but lives in the shade under a dense canopy and seldom goes out into direct sun. Natural, filtered daylight in a partly roofed room can be used.

FEEDING

The species eats small, live arthropods. In the wild these are mainly spiders, cockroaches, ants and termites as well as snails and a little plant material, over 20 different prey types in all.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Cnemaspis psychedelica is a shy rock dweller that flees into crevices when disturbed. The animals are small and easily injured, so treat them as animals to look at and not to pick up.

NATIVE RANGE

Vietnam.