herpy

GECKOS

Texas banded gecko

Coleonyx brevis

Coleonyx brevis is a small, fragile desert gecko from the Chihuahuan Desert in the south-western USA and northern Mexico. It is banded, has movable eyelids, lacks adhesive lamellae under the toes and is active at dusk and at night. Its care resembles a small version of *Eublepharis macularius*, but the species tolerates very little handling.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Coleonyx variegatus brevis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-12 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**1.9-3.3 g**
Lifespan	**15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert, semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**75 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**22-29 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Incubation	**60 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
One to three animals need an enclosure of at least 75 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height). Bigger is always better. Smaller enclosures cannot hold a heat source, hides and a humid hide all at once.

TEMPERATURE
Provide a temperature gradient. On the warm side there should be a hide at 32-35 °C, and the rest of the enclosure is kept at 22-29 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 18-22 °C, but not lower.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The species comes from a dry climate and thrives at an average humidity of 30-40 %, measured in the middle of the enclosure with a digital hygrometer.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Coleonyx brevis is nocturnal and can in principle survive without UVB if it receives vitamin D3 with its food. The animals are, however, healthier with a weak UVB light, which also gives a clear day and night.

FEEDING
Coleonyx brevis eats insects and other small arthropods. In the wild it is not specialised and takes most things it comes across.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is gentle and does not bite, but it is small, fast and fragile, and handling stresses it. Keep it to a minimum. Feeding with soft tweezers is a good way to get close without picking the animal up. Never grab the tail.

NATIVE RANGE
United States and Mexico.