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GECKOS

## Yucatan banded gecko

# *Coleonyx elegans*

A slender, nocturnal ground gecko from the forests of southern Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, with black, angular bands on a beige background and movable eyelids. It is related to *Eublepharis macularius*, but smaller and slighter, feeds on small insects and likes it warm, with a humid hide.

Family: Eublepharidae  Former name: *Coleonyx coleonyx; Gymnodactylus scapularis*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **13-18 cm** total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **8-12 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Dry forest and rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **24-28 °C** |
| Basking spot | **29-32 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-23 °C** |
| Humidity | **50-60%** |
| UVB | **Optional** |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly, in pairs or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **11-12 months** |
| Clutch size | **1-2 eggs** |
| Incubation | **40-60 days** at 26-29 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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| THE ENCLOSURE | One adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better. The floor area matters far more than the height, because the species lives on the ground. |
| TEMPERATURE | Keep 24-28 °C during the day and 20-23 °C at night, with a warm area of 29-32 °C at one end, so that the animal can choose for itself. The night temperature is an estimate. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | Keep the humidity at 50-60 % and instead create a humid microclimate in the hide and in part of the substrate. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is nocturnal and does not need any special lighting. Timer-controlled light for 10-12 hours or daylight from the room gives a fixed daily rhythm. It should be dark at night. |
| FEEDING | The gecko feeds on insects and other small invertebrates. Dubia roaches or crickets are suitable as a staple, and small mealworms, soldier fly larvae and wax moth larvae provide variety. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The gecko is shy and active at night. Wild-caught animals are often nervous and easily shed the tail, while captive-bred animals can get used to the keeper and in time tolerate gentle handling. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. |