herpy

GECKOS

Central American banded gecko

Coleonyx mitratus

Coleonyx mitratus is a slender, nocturnal ground gecko from the forest floor of Central America, with movable eyelids, small claws and dark and light crossbands. It resembles a small version of *Eublepharis macularius*, reaches 10-18 cm and feeds on insects. It is calm and easy to keep, but dries out easily and needs a warm enclosure with a humid hide.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Brachydactylus mitratus; Eublepharis dovii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-18 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**70-80 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	A single adult can be kept in an enclosure of at least 60 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and for a male with a couple of females or a small group, about 90 × 45 × 45 cm is a good size.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 24-28 °C in the enclosure during the day with a warm area of 30-32 °C, and let the temperature fall to 18-22 °C at night. The species prefers a body temperature of about 25 °C in the morning and 28 °C in the evening.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity is the most important point in care.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not need any special lighting. UVB is not necessary when the insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3, but a weak UVB light can be used.
FEEDING	The gecko feeds exclusively on insects. Mealworms of a suitable size are a good staple, also for other *Coleonyx*, and crickets and dubia roaches provide variety.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is calm, but not an animal for daily handling. It tolerates a little handling and sheds the tail if grabbed, so never take hold of the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.