herpy

GECKOS

Belep giant gecko

Correlophus belepensis

Correlophus belepensis is a large, rare gecko that lives only on a single small island in the Belep Islands north-west of Grande Terre in New Caledonia. It resembles its close relative *Correlophus ciliatus* and has a distinct crest of spines running from the eye down towards the shoulder. The species is critically endangered in the wild, and there is almost no knowledge of its care in captivity.

Family: Diplodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-22 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 22-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is almost no knowledge of the care of *Correlophus belepensis*.
TEMPERATURE	During the day 22-26 °C is suitable for *Correlophus belepensis*, and a small area at the top may reach 26-28 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 18-21 °C. Too much heat is a greater risk than cold.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity in the enclosure for *Correlophus belepensis* must fluctuate: humid nights and drier days. Mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening, so the humidity rises to 70-80 %, and let it fall to 50-60 % during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Correlophus belepensis* is crepuscular and nocturnal and sleeps hidden during the day.
FEEDING	*Correlophus belepensis* is fed like its close relative *Correlophus ciliatus*, which feeds on fruit and insects. The staple is a ready-mixed powder diet for fruit-eating geckos, mixed with water into a thick paste.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Like other crepuscular geckos, *Correlophus belepensis* is probably stressed by a lot of handling. Let new animals settle in for several weeks, and wait to pick them up until they are eating steadily.
NATIVE RANGE	New Caledonia.