herpy

GECKOS

Crested gecko

Correlophus ciliatus

A curious, nocturnal climber from the rainforests of New Caledonia, with fringed crests above the eyes and sticky toe pads that can climb glass. It tolerates room temperature, lives on prepared diet and insects, and is one of the best choices for anyone wanting a first reptile.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**35-55 g**
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 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 or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**15-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**5-9**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 22-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Annex D**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is always better. A pair or a small group needs at least 60 × 45 × 90 cm.

TEMPERATURE

Correlophus ciliatus is happy at ordinary room temperature. By day the enclosure should be 22-26 °C, and a small area at the top may reach 26-28 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should fluctuate as it does in the rainforest. Mist the enclosure thoroughly with lukewarm water in the evening, so that the humidity rises to 70-80 % or more, and lightly again in the morning if you like.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is active at dusk and at night and can live without UVB when it receives vitamin D3 through its food. A weak UVB light does make the animals more active and gives safer calcium metabolism, so it is recommended.

FEEDING

The staple diet is a ready-mixed powdered diet for fruit-eating geckos, mixed with water into a thick paste.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Correlophus ciliatus is calm and can become quite tame, but it is not a pet to be handled every day. Many animals are jumpy, especially when young, and leap from hand to hand.

NATIVE RANGE

New Caledonia.