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GECKOS

South-western clawless gecko

Crenadactylus ocellatus

One of Australia's very smallest geckos: no more than 4 cm from snout to vent and entirely without claws on the toes. *Crenadactylus ocellatus* lives hidden under bark, fallen timber and stones in south-western Australia. Little is known about its care, and the species is almost unknown in enclosures outside Australia.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Diplodactylus ocellatus; Diplodactylus bilineatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 20 × 20 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**55-75 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	Little is known about the care of *Crenadactylus ocellatus*, and the species is hardly kept outside Australia.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure should be 22-26 °C, and a small area at one end may reach 28-30 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 14-18 °C. The temperature should not exceed 30 °C for long, because such small animals dry out easily.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be low to moderate: 30-50 %. The enclosure should be mostly dry, but the humid hide is kept slightly moist with sphagnum or soil, so the animals can seek moisture and shedding goes smoothly.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and lives hidden by day, so UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	The diet in the wild is not documented. Small arthropods suit the size: springtails, fruit flies, small termites, newly hatched crickets and small cockroaches. Prey must not be larger than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Crenadactylus ocellatus* is quick, shy and hard to see, because it hides by day and is active in the dark.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.