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GECKOS

Giant bent-toed gecko

Cyrtodactylus irianjayaensis

Cyrtodactylus irianjayaensis is a large, powerful and nocturnal ground gecko from the rainforest of western New Guinea, with sharply marked bands and long, sharp claws. The species is rare in captivity, requires high humidity and cool warmth, and suits a keeper who has kept geckos before.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-35 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**100-130 days** at 24-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Data Deficient (DD)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs an enclosure of at least 90 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). The species is large and powerful, and it uses both the floor and low branches, so floor area matters more than height.

TEMPERATURE

Cyrtodactylus irianjayaensis comes from cool tropical areas and is not an animal that sits in the heat. By day the temperature should be 22-26 °C, and at night it may fall to 21-23 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species requires high humidity, 70-100 %. Mist the enclosure thoroughly at least twice a day, so that the substrate and leaves are wet, and keep the substrate constantly moist without standing in water.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and does not require strong light. Ordinary, weak lighting for 12 hours a day is plenty, and a weak moonlight can be used to follow the animal at night. UVB is not documented as necessary for the species.

FEEDING

C. irianjayaensis is a greedy hunter and eats large prey. The staple diet is insects such as roaches, large crickets and grasshoppers. Occasionally a newborn mouse can be given for variety.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is calm but stresses easily and should not be handled. It has long, sharp claws and can bite very hard. Work slowly in the enclosure, and keep your distance from the animal's hide so it is not frightened.

NATIVE RANGE

Indonesia.