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GECKOS

Malayan forest gecko

Cyrtodactylus pulchellus

A beautifully marked, nocturnal rock gecko from the forests of the island of Penang in Malaysia. It has large, golden eyes, bold bands across the body and toes with claws instead of adhesive lamellae. Only a few documented experiences of care and breeding exist, so the information here is cautious.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus pulchellus; Cyrtodactylus pulchella*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 23-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better, as the species uses both floor and walls.
TEMPERATURE	The species tolerates heat poorly. By day the temperature should be 23-26 °C and at night 20-22 °C, corresponding to ordinary room temperature. The temperature must not exceed 26 °C for long periods.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The gecko comes from a humid environment and needs a humidity of 60-80 %. The humidity should fluctuate, so that the enclosure can also dry out a little.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not need UVB. A weak UVB light is optional, as long as the animal can withdraw completely from it.
FEEDING	*Cyrtodactylus pulchellus* is an insectivore. Give crickets, grasshoppers, roaches and similar insects of a size smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes. Adults are fed 2-3 times a week and young every other day.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy and secretive and spends most of the day in a hide. When the lights go out it comes out and can move quickly and nimbly among rocks and branches.
NATIVE RANGE	Malaysia.