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GECKOS

Pacific gecko

Dactylocnemis pacificus

A nervous, quick and beautifully patterned nocturnal gecko from the north-western part of New Zealand's North Island, where it lives in scrub, forest and on rocky coasts. It gives birth to live young, reaches 14-18 cm in length and can live beyond 20 years. It thrives in a cool, temperate climate.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Hoplodactylus pacificus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-18 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-25 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 50 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**18-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit and nectar**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**18-24 months**
Litter size	**1-2 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**270-360 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The care of *Dactylocnemis pacificus* is only sparsely described. The species is regarded as fairly easy to keep and breed, but there are no documented temperatures, so the climate figures are based on the range.
TEMPERATURE	Temperatures are not documented for the species in captivity and follow the climate of the range. By day the enclosure should be 18-24 °C and at night 12-18 °C, so it cools naturally.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 50-80 %. Mist the enclosure lightly in the evening, so leaves and bark are moist at night, and let it dry out partly during the day. Constantly wet conditions cause mould and skin problems.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Dactylocnemis pacificus* is nocturnal and only basks hidden near its daytime hide, so it has no documented need for UVB.
FEEDING	*Dactylocnemis pacificus* is omnivorous, but lives mostly on insects. In the wild it takes moths, flies, beetles, locusts and other invertebrates, and it licks nectar, sap from small fruits and honeydew from scale insects.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Dactylocnemis pacificus* is quick, nervous and loses its tail easily, so handling is kept to a minimum. Move it only when necessary, and let it run from hand to hand over a low, soft surface. Never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	New Zealand.