herpy

GECKOS

Helmeted gecko

Diplodactylus galeatus

Diplodactylus galeatus is a small, reddish-brown desert gecko from the mountains of central Australia with a pale, boldly marked helmet on the head and a short, thick tail. It is nocturnal, lives on insects and can be kept in a small, dry enclosure, but it is very rare outside Australia.

Family: Diplodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 25 × 25 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**29-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-4**
Incubation	**46-60 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The care of *Diplodactylus galeatus* has not been described in detail, so the recommendations here are based on the genus *Diplodactylus*.

TEMPERATURE

For *Diplodactylus galeatus* the heat must lie at one end, so that the animal can choose. The warm end should hold about 29-31 °C and the cool end about 24 °C. Do not heat the whole terrarium.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Diplodactylus galeatus comes from dry regions, and the genus prefers a dry environment without much humidity. Humidity should be 30-50 %.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Diplodactylus galeatus is nocturnal, and like the rest of the genus it does not need UVB. Give 10-12 hours of light a day, ideally controlled by a timer, and keep it dark at night.

FEEDING

Diplodactylus galeatus lives on small insects. Crickets make a good staple, but other small insects such as smaller grasshoppers, small dubia roaches and now and then waxworms can also be used.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Diplodactylus galeatus is quiet and somewhat shy. By day it sleeps in its hide and becomes active when the light goes off. The genus is fairly active in the evening, when the animals patrol around the enclosure.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.