herpy

GECKOS

Ebenavia boettgeri

Ebenavia boettgeri is a small, slender gecko from the lowland rainforest along the east coast of Madagascar, about 6-8 cm including the tail. For many years it was counted as part of *Ebenavia inunguis* and has only been a separate species again since 2018. Little is known about its care.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 24-27 °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 *Ebenavia boettgeri*. The figures in this guide are borrowed from *Ebenavia inunguis*, the closest and best-known relative, and they fit the climate in the species' range.

TEMPERATURE

During the day the enclosure should be kept at 26-28 °C. At night the temperature drops to about 22 °C in summer and 18 °C in winter. A fluorescent tube normally gives enough warmth.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be around 70 %. It is easy to maintain by spraying the enclosure once a day, preferably in the evening, so that leaves and bark become damp.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and hides during the day. The enclosure is lit and heated with a fluorescent tube, switched on 12 hours a day in summer and 10 hours in winter, controlled by a timer. UVB is optional.

FEEDING

Offer small insects and other small arthropods that are smaller than the animal's head: fruit flies, springtails, newly hatched and small crickets and small woodlice.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Ebenavia boettgeri is slow and stealthy and not suited to handling. Animals you try to pick up may flee and drop the tail, and it does not grow back in the same form.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.