herpy

GECKOS

East Indian leopard gecko

Eublepharis hardwickii

A stocky, ground-dwelling gecko from the forests of eastern India and Bangladesh with broad dark brown and pale bands and a thick tail that stores fat. It is closely related to *Eublepharis macularius*, but must be kept cooler and more humid and is still rare in vivaria.

Family: Eublepharidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-23 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**50-60 g**
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**15-18 °C** 6-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-6**
Incubation	**50-70 days** at 26-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult should have an enclosure of at least 90 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height), the same minimum as for *Eublepharis macularius*.

TEMPERATURE

Eublepharis hardwickii must be kept cooler than the other species in the genus. By day the temperature should be 25-28 °C and the hottest spot 28-30 °C, not warmer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity must be far higher than in *Eublepharis macularius*, namely 60-80%. Mist the enclosure morning and evening, preferably with lukewarm water, and keep the moss and the planting soil damp.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is strictly nocturnal and most active in the first hours after dark. Give around 12 hours of light a day and up to 14 hours in the breeding season. During the winter rest light is not necessary.

FEEDING

Eublepharis hardwickii lives exclusively on insects and detects prey by movement. It takes crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches and mealworms, but some animals will not take mealworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is shy and calm, slower than *Eublepharis macularius*, but it becomes quick when food arrives. It tolerates handling and can become tame with regular contact.

NATIVE RANGE

India and Bangladesh.