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GECKOS

Turkmenistan eyelid gecko

Eublepharis turcmenicus

A terrestrial gecko with movable eyelids from the rocky foothills of the Kopet Dag in Turkmenistan and northern Iran. *Eublepharis turcmenicus* is a rare visitor in terrariums, and much of its care is based on the close relative *Eublepharis macularius*: dry and warm by day, cooler at night, live insects and a long, cool winter rest if the animals are to breed.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Eublepharis turkmenicus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**17-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-26 °C**
Basking spot	**35-37 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Winter rest	**13-14 °C** 12-13 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18 months**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**57 days** at 27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
The setup is based on *Eublepharis macularius*, which lives in similar conditions. An adult needs an enclosure of at least 90 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height), corresponding to a floor area of about 0.4 m².

TEMPERATURE
Eublepharis turcmenicus needs a clear temperature gradient. By day the air should be 25-26 °C and the surface under the heat source 35-37 °C, and at night the temperature drops to 20-23 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The species comes from dry surroundings and needs dry air of 30-40 %, which corresponds to the humidity in most homes. A mesh lid or other good ventilation keeps the air dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is most active at dusk and at night and can live without UVB when the food contains vitamin D3. Nocturnal geckos do, however, make use of UVB and benefit from it when given the chance.

FEEDING
The gecko lives on insects and should not be given vegetables or fruit. In the wild it also takes small vertebrates, but this is not necessary in captivity.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Eublepharis turcmenicus is a calm gecko, and handling follows *E. macularius*: the animal can be handled once it has had two weeks to settle in and has eaten normally.

NATIVE RANGE
Turkmenistan and Iran.