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GECKOS

European leaf-toed gecko

Euleptes europaea

A small, nocturnal gecko from cliffs and islets in the western Mediterranean. It spends the day in narrow rock crevices, tolerates cool nights and is the only species in its genus. Little is known about its care in captivity.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Phyllodactylus europaeus; Phyllodactylus doriae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**1.2 g**
Lifespan	**6-21 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**10-15 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**65-80 days** at 24-28 °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 *Euleptes europaea*. The care described here is based on the species' habitat and the Mediterranean climate.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 22-26 °C by day and a small warm spot of 28-30 °C, for example a stone slab under a weak lamp or above a heat mat with a thermostat, so that the animal can warm itself in a crevice as on sun-warmed rocks.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 50-70 %, an estimate based on the Mediterranean climate. Keep most of the enclosure dry, and leave a single crevice or a corner slightly damper.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal, and its need for UVB has not been investigated.
FEEDING	In the wild *Euleptes europaea* lives on small insects and spiders, both flying and ground-dwelling, and it stalks its prey slowly like a cat before pouncing.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Euleptes europaea* is shy, hides most of the day and becomes active after dark. It is quick, can jump a long way for its size and is unsuited to handling, and it readily sheds its tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Italy, France and Tunisia.