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GECKOS

Western chameleon gecko

Eurydactylodes occidentalis

Eurydactylodes occidentalis is the smallest species in the genus of New Caledonian chameleon geckos: a small, nocturnal, tree-dwelling gecko with a prehensile tail that lives only in the coastal lowlands of western Grande Terre. The species was first described in 2009, is threatened in the wild and is only rarely seen in captivity. Its care is based on its relatives *Eurydactylodes vieillardi* and *Eurydactylodes agricolae*.

Family: Diplodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**27-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**50-90 days** at 22-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Eurydactylodes occidentalis*. The figures are borrowed from *Eurydactylodes vieillardi* and *Eurydactylodes agricolae*, which have almost the same way of life and size.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 22-26 °C across most of the terrarium, with a warm spot under a lamp at 27-29 °C. At night it should fall to 20-23 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Keep the humidity at 60-80%, measured in the middle of the terrarium. It is lowest at the warm end and highest at the cool end. It should rise at night and fall during the day, but never drop below 50%.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and can manage without UVB when the food contains vitamin D3, but a weak UVB light is an advantage.
FEEDING	The species is probably a fruit and insect eater like the rest of the genus. Give about half a prepared diet for fruit-eating geckos, mixed to a thick paste, and half live insects.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Eurydactylodes occidentalis* is small and calm, and the species of the genus can be accustomed to brief handling. Let a new animal settle for two weeks, and handle it only once it has eaten.
NATIVE RANGE	New Caledonia.