herpy

GECKOS

Bavay's gecko

Eurydactylodes vieillardi

Eurydactylodes vieillardi is a small, calm, nocturnal gecko from the forests of the main island of New Caledonia, with large, irregular scales that look like drops of oil on water, and a prehensile tail. It can squirt a foul-smelling fluid from its tail when frightened.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Platydactylus vieillardi; Eurydactylus vieillardi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-13 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**4-12 g**
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
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	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

For one adult, the enclosure must be at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). Bigger is always better, and height matters more than floor area, because the species climbs.

TEMPERATURE

Eurydactylodes vieillardi is nocturnal and does best at moderate temperatures. By day it should be 22-26 °C in most of the enclosure, with a warm spot under a lamp at 27-29 °C. At night the temperature should fall to 20-23 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species does best in high humidity, and an average of 60-80 % is the goal, measured in the middle of the enclosure. It is natural for the humidity to be lower at the warm end and higher at the cool end.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal, but ventures out onto branches and basks during the daytime. It can manage without UVB when it receives vitamin D3 through its food, but does better with weak UVB light, which also brings out the colours.

FEEDING

The species eats both insects and fruit. The diet can be made up of about half a ready-mixed powdered diet for fruit-eating geckos, which is mixed with water into a thick paste, and half live insects.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Eurydactylodes vieillardi is a small, robust and fairly slow gecko that can become quite tame. Give a new animal two weeks in peace before handling begins, and only if it has eaten.

NATIVE RANGE

New Caledonia.