herpy

GECKOS

## Golden gecko

# *Gekko badenii*

*Gekko badenii* is a medium-sized, golden climbing gecko from the granite cliffs of Vietnam with pale crossbands across the back and a calm disposition once it has settled in. It is nocturnal, eats both insects and fruit and does well in a medium-sized enclosure, but many animals in the trade are caught in the wild, and the species is assessed as endangered.

Family: Gekkonidae  Former name: *Gekko ulikovskii*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **13-20 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **10-20 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal and rock-dwelling** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and rocky terrain** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **45 × 45 × 60 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **23-29 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **21-23 °C** |
| Humidity | **60-80%** |
| UVB | **Optional** |
| Diet | **Insects, fruit and complete diet** |
| Kept | **Singly, in pairs or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **2 eggs** |
| Incubation | **60-90 days**<br>at 25-30 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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|---|---|
| CITES | **Not listed** |
| EU annex | **Annex D** |
| IUCN | **Endangered (EN)** |

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**

An adult *Gekko badenii* needs an enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). Keep the animal alone, or a male together with one or more females in a larger enclosure with many hiding places.

**TEMPERATURE**

By day the enclosure is kept at 23-29 °C, and at night at 21-23 °C. A heat bulb or a ceramic heat emitter controlled by a thermostat can keep up the heat if the room is too cold.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**

The humidity should be 60-80 %, because *Gekko badenii* comes from rainforest. Mist the enclosure daily with lukewarm water, so that the humidity rises and the gecko can drink the droplets from leaves and glass.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**

*Gekko badenii* is nocturnal and does not need UVB light as long as it gets vitamin D3 through the food. If you still want to give UVB, use a weak tube for shade-dwelling animals.

**FEEDING**

*Gekko badenii* eats both insects and fruit. Give a varied diet of crickets, cockroaches and mealworms, supplemented with ripe mango, papaya and banana or prepared food for *Correlophus ciliatus*, mixed into fruit purée.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**

*Gekko badenii* is fast and has very delicate skin, so it is not suited to much handling. Some bite, but most are not aggressive.

**NATIVE RANGE**

Vietnam.