herpy

GECKOS

Smith's green-eyed gecko

Gekko smithii

Gekko smithii is one of the largest geckos in the world: a sturdy forest dweller from the Malay Peninsula and southern Thailand with green eyes and white spots on the back. It is rare in vivaria, and its care relies heavily on the close relative *Gekko gecko*.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gecko smithii; Gekko stentor*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**19 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-29 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-26 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-180 days** at 25-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The dimensions for *Gekko smithii* follow *Gekko gecko*, which is almost as large. A single adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better.

TEMPERATURE

The temperatures suit the warm, tropical climate of the species' homeland. By day the enclosure should be 26-29 °C, and a warm spot under a lamp may reach 30-33 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 23-26 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Keep the humidity at 60-80 %, and let it fluctuate: mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening, so that the humidity rises, and let the substrate and branches dry out somewhat during the day.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Gekko smithii is nocturnal, and its need for UV light is not known.

FEEDING

Gekko smithii eats insects, especially grasshoppers. The staple is crickets, dubia roaches and grasshoppers, supplemented with waxworms, hornworms or superworms as a treat.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Expect a temperament like that of the relative *Gekko gecko*, one of the most defensive geckos in the trade: a large, powerful animal that hisses, opens its mouth wide and bites when it feels threatened.

NATIVE RANGE

Thailand and Malaysia.