herpy

GECKOS

Lined gecko

Gekko vittatus

Gekko vittatus is a fast, shy nocturnal climber from the rainforests of New Guinea and the surrounding islands, with a distinct white stripe down the back. The species name *vittatus* is Latin for "banded" and alludes to just that stripe. It is a handsome animal to look at in a well-planted enclosure, but it prefers not to be picked up, and most in the trade are wild-caught.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gecko vittatus; Platydactylus vittatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 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	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**55-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and fruit**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-6**
Incubation	**80-120 days** at 25-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A single adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height), preferably taller, because *Gekko vittatus* is active and climbs a lot. An animal with too little space hides most of the time.

TEMPERATURE

During the day the temperature should be 25-28 °C in most of the enclosure, with a warm spot of 30-32 °C high up. At night it should fall to 21-24 °C. This roughly matches conditions in the wild.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 55-65 % during the day and rise to 75-80 % after a thorough misting in the evening. Mist again in the morning if the air becomes too dry. The animal drinks water droplets from leaves and glass.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Gekko vittatus is active at night and at dusk and can survive without UVB, but should have it.

FEEDING

Gekko vittatus feeds on live insects. Offer crickets, dubia roaches, black soldier fly larvae and, now and then, mealworms or waxworms. Feeder insects must not be larger than the distance between the animal's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Gekko vittatus is fast, shy and nervous and is not an animal to pick up for pleasure. It resembles *Gekko gecko*, but is less aggressive. It may try to bite, give a loud, barking sound and drop its tail.

NATIVE RANGE

Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Palau and Solomon Islands.