herpy

GECKOS

Yellow-headed gecko

Gonatodes albogularis

A small, diurnal gecko from Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the large Caribbean islands. The male has a yellow to orange-yellow head and a dark body, while the female is brown-spotted. The species has no adhesive lamellae, but climbs and hunts in daylight and suits a densely planted, tall enclosure well.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus albogularis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-12 months**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**60-100 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The species thrives in a vertical enclosure. A single adult gecko can be kept in around 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and a pair needs at least 40 × 30 × 45 cm.

TEMPERATURE

Gonatodes albogularis needs 24-28 °C during the day. A small warmer area of 28-30 °C is fine, but the species hardly basks at all, and there must always be cooler, shaded places to retreat to.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 60-80%, and there must be good ventilation. Mist the enclosure once a day, so that there are droplets on leaves, cork and panes that the geckos can drink from.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs light for 11-13 hours a day. T5 daylight tubes give both light and a little heat and are enough on their own.

FEEDING

The species lives on small insects and other prey that are smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is shyer than day geckos of the genus *Phelsuma*, but is often seen, especially at feeding. It should not be handled. It is small and fast, and a single jump or a fall can cause an injury or an escape.

NATIVE RANGE

Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Cayman Islands.