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GECKOS

Wiegmann's striped gecko

Gonatodes vittatus

A small, diurnal gecko from Venezuela, Colombia and the islands off the coast, where the male has a white stripe with a black edge down the back and a yellow head. It climbs on tree trunks and walls but cannot climb glass, and it does well in a small enclosure if kept alone or as a pair.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus vittatus; Gonatodes gillii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**29-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-60%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**65-110 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	A pair needs an enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better, because more space gives more calm.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure should be 24-27 °C. A warm spot of 29-32 °C can be made with a heat mat or a lamp, but it is not necessary if the temperature is otherwise high and stable.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Gonatodes vittatus* thrives in drier air than most tropical geckos. Keep the humidity at 50-60 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal but does not bask, and UVB is optional. Weak UV light can make it easier to get the animals to breed, but too much UV can cause problems with shedding.
FEEDING	*Gonatodes vittatus* eats insects and other small arthropods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is bold and curious and is often seen during the day, but it is not an animal to be handled. The skin can tear if the animal is grabbed, and the animals are easily stressed.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Aruba and Curaçao.