herpy

GECKOS

Vietnamese leopard gecko

Goniurosaurus araneus

A slender, long-legged tiger gecko from the karst mountains on the border between northern Vietnam and southern China, with four broad orange bands on a rusty brown ground colour. The species name *araneus* comes from the Latin word for spider. The gecko thrives at room temperature and high humidity, and is threatened in the wild, so it requires both paperwork and a keeper with some experience.

Family: Eublepharidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**19-22 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**45-80 days** at 24-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height), and a pair or a trio of one male and two females needs about 90 cm in length.
TEMPERATURE	The species is a cool-climate gecko that rarely needs extra heat in an ordinary living room. During the day 22-26 °C suits, and at night the temperature may fall to 19-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-90 %: highest at night after misting and slightly lower during the day. During the day it may fall to around 60 %, when the evening misting lifts it to 90 % again.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active at dusk and at night and sits hidden through the day, so it does not use the light to warm itself.
FEEDING	The species is an insectivore and takes almost anything small enough. Offer crickets, dubia roaches, locusts and silkworms, and vary between several kinds. The prey must not be larger than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy and fast and disappears into hiding when startled. It is not suited to handling, so only pick it up when the substrate is changed or it needs to be weighed. Give new animals at least two weeks of peace.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam and China.