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GECKOS

Hainan cave gecko

Goniurosaurus hainanensis

A small, dark tiger gecko from southern Hainan with pale yellow bands across the neck, body and tail and orange to reddish-brown eyes. It is nocturnal, sleeps in hiding by day and wants it damp and cool. It tolerates neither heat nor much handling, but is not difficult to keep when the climate is right.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Goniurosaurus lichtenfelderi hainanensis; Goniurosaurus sinensis; Goniurosaurus kwanghua*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-11 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**75 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Not required**
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	**60-75 days** at 24-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair needs an enclosure of at least 75 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and a small group needs more floor area. A larger enclosure of 80-100 cm in length is an advantage.

TEMPERATURE
Keep 22-26 °C during the day and 18-22 °C at night. Most living rooms manage this on their own, and then heat lamps and heat mats are unnecessary. Heat is the species' weak point.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should follow a rhythm with humid nights and slightly drier days. Mist the enclosure in the evening so that the humidity rises towards 80-90 %, and let it fall to 60-70 % during the day.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The gecko is nocturnal and does not bask, so UVB is not necessary. The most important thing is a fixed daily rhythm with light for 11-12 hours in summer, 8-10 hours in winter and darkness at night.

FEEDING
The species lives on insects. The staple diet can be crickets, dubia roaches and locusts, with mealworms for variety and an occasional waxworm. Waxworms are fatty and should be a treat, otherwise the animals become too fat.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The gecko is shy and more nervous than *Eublepharis macularius*. Some animals tolerate being picked up for a moment, but they may jump from the hand if startled, and handling stresses them.

NATIVE RANGE
China.