herpy

GECKOS

Spotted ground gecko

Goniurosaurus orientalis

A small, dark, nocturnal eyelid gecko from the limestone forests of a few Japanese islands near Okinawa, with blood-red eyes and pale crossbands over an almost black ground colour. It lives hidden in rock crevices and prefers cool, humid conditions. The species is threatened in the wild and rarely kept, so very little is known about its care.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Eublepharis orientalis; Goniurosaurus kuroiwae orientalis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-16 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**45-80 days** at 24-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Goniurosaurus orientalis*.
TEMPERATURE	The species likes it cool and needs no basking spot. By day the temperature should be 22-26 °C, and at night 18-22 °C. In a typical living room most terrariums manage without extra heating. Heat is the greatest danger.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 60-90%, and the air must not stand still. Mist the terrarium in the evening so droplets form on the back wall, plants and hides, and let it dry out a little during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is active at dusk and at night and needs only weak light from LED strips or T5 tubes, which give a fixed daily rhythm. Give about 12 hours of light in summer and about 8 hours in winter.
FEEDING	*Goniurosaurus orientalis* is an insect eater. Give crickets, dubia roaches and locusts as the staple, and now and then mealworms, wax moth larvae or silkworm pupae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is shy and secretive and spends the day in hiding. It should not be handled. Never grab the tail, which can be shed and regrows in a different form.
NATIVE RANGE	Japan.