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GECKOS

Carrot-tail viper gecko

Hemidactylus imbricatus

Hemidactylus imbricatus is a small, striped desert gecko from southern Pakistan with a thick, carrot-shaped tail that serves as its fat store. It lives hidden in dry ground by day and hunts at night, needs only a small enclosure and can be kept together in pairs or small groups.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Teratolepis fasciata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-25 °C**
Humidity	**40-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs, one male with several females or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-80 days** at 24-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair, or one male with two females, needs an enclosure of at least 40 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height). The dimensions can also be turned so that the enclosure is 30 cm long and 40 cm deep.

TEMPERATURE
By day the enclosure should be 25-30 °C. Create a warm area of 32-35 °C, measured on the surface with an infrared thermometer, using a heat mat or a small heat bulb controlled by a thermostat.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Hemidactylus imbricatus comes from a dry area and does best with fairly low humidity of around 40-50 %. Mist the enclosure lightly with water two to three times a week in the evening, so that droplets sit on the walls and hides.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Hemidactylus imbricatus is active at dusk and at night and needs no special lighting. UVB is not necessary. Instead, give the animals calcium with vitamin D3 through their food.

FEEDING
Hemidactylus imbricatus is an insectivore. Give adults live insects once or twice a week: medium-sized crickets, small dubia roaches, waxworms and the occasional house cricket.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Hemidactylus imbricatus is quiet and calm and can in time become used to handling, but it is an animal to watch.

NATIVE RANGE
Pakistan.