herpy

GECKOS

Termite hill gecko

Hemidactylus triedrus

Hemidactylus triedrus is a small, sturdily built night gecko from southern India and Sri Lanka, with white crossbands on a brown back and rows of pointed tubercles on the back. It lives on the ground and low tree trunks, hunts termites and other small insects and is a robust but somewhat specialised species for the keeper who has kept enclosures before.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gecko triedrus; Hemidactylus subtriedrus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**29-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**55-65%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**50-80 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair can be kept in an enclosure of at least 45 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height). Floor area matters more than height, because *Hemidactylus triedrus* mostly moves down near the ground and on low branches.

TEMPERATURE
By day the enclosure should be 24-27 °C, and a small warm spot may reach 29-32 °C. At night the temperature should be 21-23 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The humidity should be around 55-65 %, but *Hemidactylus triedrus* is a semi-arid animal, so the humidity should fluctuate and the enclosure should be allowed to dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Hemidactylus triedrus is nocturnal, and UVB is optional. A weak UVB light at one end of the enclosure, with plenty of shade, can give more reliable calcium metabolism, especially for breeding animals.

FEEDING
Hemidactylus triedrus is an insectivore. In the wild it eats termites and other small insects such as grasshoppers, beetles and spiders.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Hemidactylus triedrus is fast and nervous, especially when young, and it is not an animal to be handled much. Short, calm handling over a low surface is best, and never grab the tail, which it can drop.

NATIVE RANGE
India and Sri Lanka.