herpy

GECKOS

Taylor's fat-tailed gecko

Hemitheconyx taylori

A calm, ground-dwelling gecko from the dry regions of Somalia and Ethiopia, with velvety skin, a short, fat tail and eyelids. *Hemitheconyx taylori* is rare in vivaria and needs more heat than most geckos of the same family.

Family: Eublepharidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**11-14 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**29-32 °C**
Basking spot	**40 °C**
Temperature, night	**25-26 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**22-25 °C** 16-17 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**43-70 days** at 28-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair of adults can be kept in an enclosure of at least 50 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height). Bigger is better. If you keep more than a pair, there must be extra space and many hiding places.

TEMPERATURE

Hemitheconyx taylori needs warmth: by day 29-32 °C in the enclosure and a hot spot just under the heat source of about 40 °C. At night the temperature is kept at 25-26 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity in the enclosure should be 40-60 %. Do not mist, because the species comes from a dry region; a water bowl with fresh water provides enough humidity.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal, and the need for UVB is not documented, but a full-spectrum tube above the enclosure is common. During the active period the day length is 14 hours.

FEEDING

Hemitheconyx taylori lives exclusively on insects. Adults are given cockroaches, crickets and other insects, 2 times a week, 4-5 per animal. In addition, give 1-2 white zophobas larvae to each animal once a week.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Hemitheconyx taylori is a peaceful gecko, but not much is documented about how well it tolerates handling. Males are territorial, and two males should not be kept together. A pair or a single gecko can be kept without problems.

NATIVE RANGE

Somalia and Ethiopia.