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GECKOS

Reticulated velvet gecko

Hesperoedura reticulata

Hesperoedura reticulata is a small, nocturnal, tree-dwelling gecko from the interior of south-western Western Australia, where it lives under loose bark on eucalypts in open woodland and scrub. It is almost unknown in captivity, so its care is based on the climate of its range and on relatives in the same family.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Oedura reticulata; Amalosia reticulata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-28 °C**
Basking spot	**28-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-18 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Winter rest	**10-15 °C** 6-10 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-80 days** at 25-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Very little is known about the care of *Hesperoedura reticulata*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure should be 22-28 °C, and a small warm spot under a lamp or on a rock may reach 28-32 °C. At night the temperature should fall to 15-18 °C, as in the inland climate, where nights are markedly cooler than days.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The air should be fairly dry, about 30-50 %. Mist bark and leaves lightly in the evening 1-2 times a week so the gecko can drink from the droplets, and let the furnishings dry out again during the day. The substrate should be dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Hesperoedura reticulata is nocturnal and lives hidden by day, so it has no great need for UVB.

FEEDING

Hesperoedura reticulata feeds on insects and other small arthropods. In captivity, crickets, small locusts, cockroaches and moths work well. Prey must not be wider than the distance between the animal's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Hesperoedura reticulata is shy and quick, and is best kept as an animal to watch, not one to handle. It is nocturnal and only shows itself once the light is off.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.