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GECKOS

Banded velvet gecko

Homopholis fasciata

A sturdy, velvety gecko from the savannas of East Africa with dark bands across the back and both adhesive lamellae and claws on the toes. It is most active at night, hides in holes in large trees and plays dead when threatened. Care is described only in broad outline.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Platypholis fasciata; Homopholis erlangeri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-11 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 40 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**28-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**19-23 °C** 12-16 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**4-5**
Incubation	**60-80 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

Homopholis fasciata climbs, so a pair needs a tall enclosure of at least 40 × 40 × 60 cm (length × width × height). Larger is always better, especially if you keep more than two animals.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 24-28 °C, and there should be a warmer spot of 28-32 °C, for example under a small 10-20 W halogen bulb or over a heat mat. At night it may fall 3-6 °C, to about 19-24 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be moderate to high, 60-80 %, with a gradient from one end of the enclosure to the other.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is active at dusk and at night and can be seen in daylight, but hides in the shade in the middle of the day. Use ordinary plant lighting on a timer, 12 hours on and 12 hours off.

FEEDING

The staple food is crickets, supplemented with cockroaches, mealworms and other insects of suitable size, so that the diet is varied. Waxworms can be given occasionally.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Homopholis fasciata can bite and hold on, and it plays dead and often lies motionless when frightened, so do not pick it up without reason. Give new animals time to settle in.

NATIVE RANGE

Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania.