herpy

GECKOS

Mourning gecko

Lepidodactylus lugubris

A small, social climber from the islands of the Pacific, where the population consists almost entirely of females that lay eggs without mating. It lives in groups, eats prepared gecko diet and fruit flies and thrives at room temperature, so it is an obvious choice for a tall, planted terrarium full of life.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Platydactylus lugubris; Hemidactylus meijeri; Gehyra neglecta*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**21-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**In groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**8-10 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**50-70 days** at 21-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height) is enough for two or three adults. A group of five or six animals needs a larger enclosure with plenty of hides and plants.
TEMPERATURE	The species thrives at ordinary room temperature: 21-27 °C by day and 18-24 °C at night. In most homes that is enough, and extra heat is only necessary if the room often falls below 18 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Keep humidity at 60-80 %, and let it fluctuate. Mist the enclosure thoroughly once or twice a day, so that humidity briefly rises to 80-90 %, and let it fall again over four to six hours, so the substrate and leaves can dry out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is active at dusk and at night and manages without UVB as long as the food contains vitamin D3. Whether UVB makes a difference is unclear.
FEEDING	The gecko is omnivorous. In the wild it eats insects, spiders, small crustaceans, fruit, nectar and pollen.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is social and can be kept in groups, which is not true of many other geckos. In the wild it lives in colonies.
NATIVE RANGE	Marshall Islands.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/en/geckos/lepidodactylus-lugubris