herpy

GECKOS

Beaded gecko

Lucasium damaeum

Lucasium damaeum is a small, fast ground gecko from the dry interior of Australia, reddish-brown on the back with chains of pale beads along a cream-coloured dorsal stripe. It is nocturnal, lives on the ground and manages with simple furnishings, but it is rare in enclosures outside Australia.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Diplodactylus damaeus; Ceramodactylus damaeus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 25 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**40-75 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Care of *Lucasium damaeum* is hardly described, so the advice here is based on the ground-dwelling Australian *Diplodactylus* species the species was formerly counted among.

TEMPERATURE
The enclosure should have a warm and a cool side. Use a heat mat or heat tape under one end, so that part of the floor reaches 28-30 °C in summer. The rest of the enclosure is kept at 22-26 °C during the day.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Lucasium damaeum comes from dry regions and should not have high humidity. Ordinary room air with 30-50 % humidity is plenty.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Lucasium damaeum is nocturnal and has no need for special lighting. UVB is optional, and there is no documented Ferguson zone for the species.

FEEDING
Lucasium damaeum feeds on small insects and spiders and is easy to feed. In captivity it takes crickets, cockroaches, termites, flies, maggots, moths and waxworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Lucasium damaeum is fast and shy and stays hidden by day. It is a species to watch, not to handle. If you have to pick it up, do so briefly and low over the floor, because it darts away quickly. Never grab it by the tail.

NATIVE RANGE
Australia.