herpy

GECKOS

Kim Howell's dwarf gecko

Lygodactylus kimhowelli

Lygodactylus kimhowelli is a small, diurnal climber from the coastal forests of north-eastern Tanzania. It has a yellow head, a blue-grey body and black longitudinal stripes, and it wants sun, warmth and a tall enclosure with bromeliads and cork. It suits keepers with a little experience who want to watch a lively, territorial animal in daylight.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-85%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**14-18 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**75-100 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

A pair of *Lygodactylus kimhowelli* needs an enclosure of at least 40 × 40 × 40 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better, because the species is one of the larger members of the genus and lives up in the trees.

TEMPERATURE

Lygodactylus kimhowelli needs 25-30 °C by day and 18-24 °C at night. The upper part of the range suits summer, and in winter the night temperature may fall to 18-22 °C. The species loves sun and needs a basking spot at 30-35 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Mist the enclosure for *Lygodactylus kimhowelli* once or twice a day, preferably onto the plants, so the humidity by day is about 50-70 % and rises to 70-85 % at night.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Lygodactylus kimhowelli is diurnal and loves sun, so do not skimp on the light. Use, for example, two T5 tubes with a daylight spectrum, preferably with a UVA and UVB share, and a halogen spot as the heat spot.

FEEDING

Lygodactylus kimhowelli needs live prey of a size it can manage: small crickets, grasshoppers, flies, mealworm beetles, wax moth larvae, aphids, woodlice, cockroaches and springtails.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Lygodactylus kimhowelli is territorial and can be stressed by too many animals in too little space. Males must never be kept together, because they are very territorial.

NATIVE RANGE

Tanzania.