herpy

GECKOS

Turquoise dwarf gecko

Lygodactylus williamsi

A small, diurnal dwarf gecko in luminous turquoise blue, found only in a couple of forest reserves in Tanzania, where it lives on screw pines. Its beauty made it a sought-after terrarium gecko, and it is precisely the trade that has brought it to the brink of extinction. Today it is critically endangered and strictly protected.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Lygodactylus picturatus williamsi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**6-12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 22-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair needs a tall enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and a male with two females at least 40 × 40 × 60 cm.

TEMPERATURE
By day the enclosure needs 24-27 °C and a basking spot of 32-35 °C under a halogen spot, so that the gecko can warm up and move away again. At night the temperature must fall moderately to 20-24 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should be 60-80 % by day and may reach almost 100 % right after the evening misting. Mist with a fine spray two or three times a day, and let the droplets evaporate and the surfaces dry a little before you mist again.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal and needs UVB. Use a T5 tube of 5-6 % (Ferguson zone 2) together with an ordinary daylight tube or an LED lamp of about 6500 K.

FEEDING
The gecko is a small hunter that also loves nectar. Give very small insects such as fruit flies, mealworm beetles, springtails, newly hatched crickets and small cockroaches. The prey must be no more than about 6 mm long.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Williams' dwarf gecko is lively and curious, but it is not an animal for handling. It is fast, and being grabbed stresses it.

NATIVE RANGE
Tanzania.