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GECKOS

Mossy New Caledonian gecko

Mniarogekko chahoua

A large, moss-patterned and nocturnal climber from the humid lowland forests of New Caledonia, with a short, broad snout and a strong prehensile tail. It is one of the most beautiful of the large New Caledonian geckos, but demands more space and more patience than its famous relative *Correlophus ciliatus*.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Rhacodactylus chahoua; Platydactylus chahoua*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-31 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**50-60 g**
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**27-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**15-24 months**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-5**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 22-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 90 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better. Height matters more than floor area.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure should be 22-26 °C, and a resting spot at the top under a weak heat bulb may reach 27-29 °C, preferably at the low end. At night 18-22 °C is suitable. Heat is the greatest danger.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Keep humidity at 60-80 %, measured in the middle of the enclosure, and let it be highest at night. Mist thoroughly with lukewarm water every evening and in the morning as needed.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and can survive without UVB when it gets vitamin D3 through the food, but it does best with a weak UVB light.
FEEDING	*Mniarogekko chahoua* is omnivorous. The staple diet is prepared powdered diet for fruit-eating geckos, mixed with water into a thick paste and served on a ledge high up, supplemented with live insects.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Mniarogekko chahoua* is shy and jumpy as a juvenile and often becomes calmer with age. It has a strong bite and a firm grip. Give new animals two weeks of peace before you begin to handle them.
NATIVE RANGE	New Caledonia.