herpy

GECKOS

Forest gecko

Mokopirirakau granulatus

Mokopirirakau granulatus is a forest-dwelling gecko from New Zealand that gives birth to live young and, unlike most geckos, readily basks during the day. It is rare in enclosures outside New Zealand and needs a cool, tall, densely planted enclosure.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Naultinus granulatus; Hoplodactylus granulatus; Dactylocnemis granulatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-40 years**
Active	**By day and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 50 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**18-24 °C**
Basking spot	**25-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-15 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and nectar**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**18-24 months**
Litter size	**1-2 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**180-330 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Mokopirirakau granulatus is regularly kept and bred in New Zealand and is not difficult to care for, but there are no documented figures for temperature and humidity in captivity.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 18-24 °C with a basking spot of 25-28 °C. At night the temperature should fall to 10-15 °C. Keep the enclosure below 28 °C, and do not place it by a south-facing window in summer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Mist the enclosure once a day, so humidity rises to 70-80 %, and let it fall to 50-60 % during the day. Leaf litter and plants hold the moisture. Keep the substrate moist, but not wet, and ensure good ventilation.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Mokopirirakau granulatus basks a great deal and is one of the geckos that are also active by day. UVB light is recommended (Ferguson zone 2), e.g. a T5 tube of 5-7 % above the mesh lid, so the UV index is 1-2 at the basking spot.

FEEDING

The staple is live insects: flies, moths, small beetles, spiders, crickets and locusts. Farmed insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Mokopirirakau granulatus is a calm animal that likes to sit on a branch and bask. It is not an animal for handling. Keep handling to a minimum, and never grab the tail, which can be shed.

NATIVE RANGE

New Zealand.