herpy

GECKOS

Auckland green gecko

Naultinus elegans

Naultinus elegans is an emerald-green, diurnal gecko from forests and scrub on New Zealand's North Island. It gives birth to live young, typically lives for about 20 years and likes it cool. The species is protected in its homeland.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Naultinus sulphureus; Hoplodactylus elegans*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 50 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**15-25 °C**
Basking spot	**25-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-16 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit and nectar**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1-2 young**
Gestation	**240-270 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Naultinus elegans lives up in the vegetation, so the enclosure should be taller than it is wide. A small group of one male and two females needs at least 50 × 50 × 100 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

Naultinus elegans comes from a temperate climate and does best cool. The ambient temperature should be between 5 and 25 °C all year round: about 15-25 °C in summer and cooler in winter.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The ideal humidity is 60-70 %, as long as the animals themselves can seek out damper places in the enclosure, for example dense foliage.

LIGHTING AND UVB

As a diurnal, basking gecko, *Naultinus elegans* needs UVB. Outdoors behind mesh the animals get it from the sun, but indoors a UVB fluorescent tube (T5) intended for reptiles must be used.

FEEDING

In the wild *Naultinus elegans* takes flying insects such as moths and flies, but also sandhoppers and spiders. It also licks nectar and honeydew and eats small berries.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Naultinus elegans is calm and slow and hunts by ambush. It is not an animal to be handled much. When threatened it gapes with the blue mouth and may utter short, croaking or barking sounds.

NATIVE RANGE

New Zealand.