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GECKOS

Northland green gecko

Naultinus grayii

Naultinus grayii is a robust, emerald-green, diurnal gecko from forest and scrub in the far north of New Zealand. It gives birth to live young, lives to about 20 years and is very rare in captivity. Its care is the same as for the other green geckos of the North Island.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus grayii; Hoplodactylus grayii; Naultinus grayi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 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	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Naultinus grayii* itself, but it is kept like the other green geckos of the North Island.
TEMPERATURE	The figures are borrowed from *Naultinus elegans*. The ambient temperature should lie between 5 and 25 °C all year: about 15-25 °C by day and cooler in winter. At night the temperature should fall to about 10-16 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-70 %, as long as the animals can seek out more humid places in the enclosure themselves, e.g. dense foliage.
LIGHTING AND UVB	As a diurnal, basking gecko, *Naultinus grayii* needs UVB. Outdoors behind mesh the animals get it from the sun, but indoors a UVB fluorescent tube (T5) made for reptiles must be used.
FEEDING	In the wild the genus takes flying insects such as moths and flies, and also spiders. It also licks nectar and honeydew. The diet is mainly insects supplemented with something sweet.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Naultinus grayii* is calm and slow and hunts by ambush. It is not an animal to be handled much. When threatened it gapes with its blue mouth and can emit short, croaking or barking sounds. Never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	New Zealand.