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GECKOS

Eastern Prickly Knob-tailed Gecko

Nephrurus asper

Nephrurus asper is a stocky, spiny knob-tailed gecko from eastern and northern Queensland with rough, tuberculate skin and a short tail ending in a round knob. It is nocturnal, feeds on insects and is one of the few geckos that cannot shed its tail.

Family: Carphodactylidae English name: Eastern prickly knob-tailed gecko

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-12 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**65-100 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the husbandry of *Nephrurus asper*. The figures here are borrowed from *Nephrurus amyae*, which is the closest and best-known relative with the same way of life.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the background at 24-28 °C during the day and a warm spot at one end at 30-32 °C. At night the temperature falls to 20-23 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from a climate with a long dry season and is kept dry at a humidity of 30-50 %. Mist the top of the hide once or twice a week so that the gecko can lick water from the surface. A water bowl is not necessary.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not need bright light. UVB is optional; a weak UVB light over part of the enclosure can be used when there is plenty of cover, so that the animal can always retreat from it.
FEEDING	The species feeds on insects and other small arthropods. Offer crickets, small cockroaches and locusts as the staple, and occasionally soldier fly larvae, waxworms or mealworms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is calm and tolerates short handling, but it is an animal to watch rather than to hold. Keep sessions short and close to the floor, and do not pick it up during the day when it is sleeping.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.