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GECKOS

Wheeler's knob-tailed gecko

Nephrurus wheeleri

Nephrurus wheeleri is a small, sturdily built ground gecko from the arid interior of Western Australia with a reddish-brown body, pale crossbands and a tail ending in a round knob. It is nocturnal, feeds on insects and needs a dry sand-based enclosure with a humid hide. An interesting species for anyone who wants to move on from *Eublepharis macularius*.

Family: Carphodactylidae Former name: *Nephrurus wheeleri wheeleri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-6**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 30 cm (length × width × height). Height matters little for a ground-dwelling species; floor area does.
TEMPERATURE	The species needs a clear difference between a warm end and a cool end. Keep the background at 22-27 °C by day and a warm spot in one end at 30-35 °C. At night the temperature may drop to 15-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from dry regions and must be kept dry, at a humidity of 30-40 %. Mist once or twice a week, no more, and make sure the ventilation is good enough that surfaces are dry again after a few hours.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not need bright light.
FEEDING	The species lives exclusively on insects and other small arthropods. Offer crickets or small roaches as the staple and now and then soldier fly larvae, mealworms or waxworms as a treat.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is calm and tolerates brief handling, but it rarely becomes as tame as *Eublepharis macularius*, and too much handling stresses it.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.