herpy

GECKOS

Marbled Velvet Gecko

Oedura marmorata

Oedura marmorata is the type species of the genus: a nocturnal gecko from the Top End of northern Australia with marbled markings and a short, swollen tail, living on rocks and trees. Since 2016 the name has applied only to the animals from the Top End, so older husbandry information under the name may concern other species.

Family: Diplodactylidae English name: Marbled velvet gecko Former name: *Oedura fracticolor*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-11 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**29-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Winter rest	**16-18 °C** 4 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-5**
Incubation	**55-70 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair of *Oedura marmorata* needs an enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE
The daytime temperature is 24-27 °C, with a warm spot of 29-33 °C, for example under a small lamp over a cork board or flat stone. The heat from a bulb varies a great deal, so always measure with a digital thermometer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity is 40-60 %. Mist the enclosure 3-4 times a week so that the animals can drink droplets from the slabs, and preferably keep a small water bowl.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Oedura marmorata is nocturnal and has no documented need for UVB. If you provide UVB, it should be a weak light (Ferguson zone 1) with plenty of shade, so that the animals can withdraw completely.

FEEDING
Oedura marmorata feeds on insects and takes most feeder insects of a suitable size: crickets, locusts, cockroaches, small mealworms and black soldier fly larvae. Prey must not be longer than the gecko's head is wide.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Oedura marmorata is a calm and secretive animal, mostly active after dark, but it can occasionally be seen out by day. If it feels threatened, it arches its back and waves its tail.

NATIVE RANGE
Australia.