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GECKOS

McIlwraith Leaf-tailed Gecko

Orraya occultus

Orraya occultus is a nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko known only from a small area in the McIlwraith Range on the Cape York Peninsula in north-eastern Australia. It has an unusually long, thin neck and a spiny tail and is the only species in its genus. The species is hardly kept in enclosures, and little is known about its husbandry.

Family: Carphodactylidae English name: McIlwraith leaf-tailed gecko Former name: *Saltuarius occultus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-11 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 80 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-100%**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**90-110 days** at 21-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the husbandry of *Orraya occultus*, and the species is hardly kept.
TEMPERATURE	The habitat lies at 500-825 metres altitude in a tropical climate, so the air is mild and does not vary much. By day the temperature should be 22-26 °C and at night 17-21 °C. Heat is the greatest danger for leaf-tailed geckos.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should fluctuate. Mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening so that humidity rises towards 100 %, and let it fall to about 60 % between mistings, so that bark and substrate can dry out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Orraya occultus* is nocturnal and lives hidden by day. UVB is not documented as necessary, and the relatives are kept without.
FEEDING	*Orraya occultus* eats arthropods. Crickets, cockroaches and other feeder insects suit when they are no longer than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Orraya occultus* is nocturnal and sits still on rocks and stones by day. It is shy and not suited to handling. Like other leaf-tailed geckos, it can lose its tail, which grows back in a shorter and different form.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.