herpy

GECKOS

Namib web-footed gecko

Pachydactylus rangei

An almost transparent, salmon-coloured desert gecko with enormous eyes and webbing between the toes, which it uses as a shovel in the loose dune sand of the Namib Desert. It is nocturnal and buries itself by day. It needs deep sand, dry air and cool nights, and is a species for the experienced keeper.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Palmatogecko rangei; Syndactylosaura schultzei*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**11-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**5-10 g**
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**56-75 days** at 30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Use a long, low enclosure, because it is the floor area that counts. A pair should have at least 60 × 40 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better. The substrate is the whole set-up.
TEMPERATURE	Provide a temperature gradient so that the animal can choose for itself. By day the background should be 24-28 °C, and about a third of the floor area is heated to 32-35 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species lives in desert, but depends on the night fog and dew. Keep the air relatively dry and well ventilated, at about 30-50 % relative humidity. The range is an estimate based on its way of life.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is strongly nocturnal and lies buried by day, so UVB is not essential when the insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3. The species can be kept without special lighting.
FEEDING	The gecko is an insectivore and in the wild takes termites, ants, beetles, grasshoppers and spiders. It is greedy but not a skilled hunter, so the prey must be easy to catch.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is nervous, fast and fragile, and its skin is thin. It is an animal to look at. Handle it only when it has to be moved, and let it walk into a small container rather than grabbing it. Never take hold of the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Namibia, Angola and South Africa.