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GECKOS

Mocquard's Madagascar ground gecko

Paroedura bastardi

Paroedura bastardi is a medium-sized, ground-dwelling, nocturnal gecko from south-eastern Madagascar with powerful limbs, a broad, triangular head and spiny tubercles on the tail. It can climb tree trunks, but it bites readily when picked up, so it suits those who would rather watch than handle.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phyllodactylus bastardi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**29-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-10 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**51-65 days** at 29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single adult needs an enclosure of at least 50 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height). A male with a couple of females needs more floor space. The species lives on the ground and needs floor space, not height.
TEMPERATURE	During the day the enclosure should be 25-28 °C, and a warm area can reach 29-31 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 21-23 °C. Switch off the light at night to preserve the day-night rhythm.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Keep the humidity at around 60-70 %. Mist the sides of the enclosure lightly once a day, so that there are droplets to drink from and the humidity rises. A hygrometer shows whether it holds.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and spends most of the day hidden. UVB is optional as long as calcium and vitamin D3 are added to the food.
FEEDING	The species eats insects. The staple is crickets, supplemented by mealworms and, in smaller amounts, wax moth larvae, which are fatty and belong only as a treat.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Paroedura bastardi* and the close relatives in the species complex bite quickly when picked up, presumably in defence.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.