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GECKOS

Masobe gecko

Paroedura masobe

A rare, dark, white-spotted gecko with large eyes from the humid forests of eastern Madagascar. The species is shy, needs a cool and humid climate and is threatened in the wild, so it suits the experienced keeper who is content to watch and not handle.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**16-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects, small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies) and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-5**
Incubation	**60-240 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs at least 45 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height) in glass or acrylic. Bigger is better, because the species uses both the floor and the low branches.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 23-25 °C, and at night it may fall to 18-22 °C. The species does not need a heat lamp or a hotspot, and it tolerates cold better than heat: in winter the night may fall a little below 18 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 60-80%. Mist the enclosure in the evening, so it is damp at night when the animal is active, and let it dry out a little during the day. A hygrometer shows whether the level holds.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and lives on the forest floor and in the foliage, so UVB is not necessary. An ordinary day and night rhythm is enough, ideally with 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark. Use a timer.

FEEDING

The species eats insects. Give crickets, roaches and mealworms. The insects must be matched to the size of the gecko, because both prey that is too large and prey that is too small is often ignored.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Paroedura masobe is shy and sensitive. It is best suited to being observed, not handled. Frequent disturbance and moving stress the animal and can make it refuse food, so keep handling to a minimum.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.