herpy

GECKOS

Stumpff's ground gecko

Paroedura stumpffi

A small, brown-banded ground gecko from northern and north-western Madagascar that comes out at night and lives only on insects. *Paroedura stumpffi* is cared for much like its well-known relative *Paroedura picta* and does well at ordinary room temperature in a small enclosure.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phyllodactylus stumpffi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-13 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-12 months**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-80 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair needs an enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height). A larger enclosure, e.g. 45 × 45 × 45 cm, gives better room for a warm and a cool side.
TEMPERATURE	During the day it should be 22-26 °C. A small area can be warmed to 28-30 °C with a heat mat or a weak halogen bulb controlled by a thermostat, so the animal can choose.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be around 50-60 %. Mist the enclosure 3-4 times a week, so the substrate is kept moist and the animals can drink droplets from leaves and decoration.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not need special lighting. An ordinary day with 10-12 hours of light is enough, and at night it must be dark. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Paroedura stumpffi* lives exclusively on insects and takes neither fruit nor prepared food. The staple is crickets and dubia roaches, while mealworms and wax moth larvae can be given now and then as a treat.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is calm and not aggressive towards humans, but it is small and easily stressed. Handle it rarely and briefly, preferably low over a soft surface, so a fall does no harm.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.