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GECKOS

Réunion Island day gecko

Phelsuma borbonica

Phelsuma borbonica is a medium-sized, blue-green day gecko from Réunion in the Indian Ocean; one subspecies lives on Agaléga. It is marbled reddish brown on the back and tail, thrives at humid, sunny forest edges and is threatened in the wild. It needs a tall, warm and well-planted terrarium with UVB light, and little is known about its care.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phelsuma cepediana borbonica; Phelsuma agalegae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-16 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Phelsuma borbonica*. The guide is based on the climate of the habitat and on the better-known day geckos, especially *Phelsuma laticauda*, which lives on the same island.

TEMPERATURE

Phelsuma borbonica needs 25-28 °C in the terrarium by day. Under a spotlight there must be a warm spot of 30-32 °C, so that the animal can lie basking in the sun. At night the temperature must fall to 20-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity in the terrarium for *Phelsuma borbonica* should be 60-80 %, with the highest value at night and after misting and a slightly lower level over the course of the day.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Phelsuma borbonica is diurnal and very fond of light and needs strong, natural light.

FEEDING

Phelsuma borbonica eats insects, nectar and ripe fruit pulp. In captivity it thrives on a mix of prepared food for day geckos and live feeder insects.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Phelsuma borbonica is nervous and prone to flee. The animal should not be handled, but observed. Fleeing in panic can make it drop its tail, and the tail does not grow back in the same form.

NATIVE RANGE

Réunion and Mauritius.