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GECKOS

Blue-tailed day gecko

Phelsuma cepediana

Phelsuma cepediana is a medium-sized, light green day gecko from Mauritius, where the male has a bright blue back and tail with dark red spots and streaks. It requires a tall, warm and humid enclosure with UVB light and is so territorial that it is best kept alone or as a closely monitored pair.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phelsuma cepedianum*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-14 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**40-45 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A single *Phelsuma cepediana* can be kept in a glass enclosure of 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height). A pair can live and breed in the same size, but will have more peace in a larger enclosure.

TEMPERATURE

For *Phelsuma cepediana* the temperature in the enclosure should be 24-27 °C during the day, and a hot spot right under a spotlight of about 32 °C lets the animal bask. At night it should be 18-23 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should be 60-70 % for *Phelsuma cepediana*, ideally with variation over the day, so plants and substrate can dry out a little.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Phelsuma cepediana is diurnal and benefits from high-quality light.

FEEDING

Phelsuma cepediana eats both insects and fruit. In captivity it does well on a mixture of prepared diet for day geckos and live feeder insects.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Phelsuma cepediana is territorial and can be aggressive, both towards its own species and towards other day geckos. Keep it alone or as a carefully matched pair. Never keep two males together.

NATIVE RANGE

Mauritius.