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GECKOS

Mauritius lowland forest day gecko

Phelsuma guimbeaui

Phelsuma guimbeaui is an emerald green day gecko from Mauritius with red spots and stripes on the back and tail. It grows to at most 15 cm and does well in a relatively small enclosure, but it is threatened in the wild, so animals in vivaria therefore have value as a reserve population.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**11-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 40 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**45-113 days** at 23-31 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair of *Phelsuma guimbeaui* can be kept properly in an enclosure of at least 40 × 40 × 60 cm (length × width × height), but bigger is better if there is room. Height is important, because the species lives in trees.
TEMPERATURE	During the day the enclosure for *Phelsuma guimbeaui* should be 24-30 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Mist the enclosure for *Phelsuma guimbeaui* once a day with demineralised water. The animals lick some of the water, and it does not harm them.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Strong, full-spectrum light is important for the colours of *Phelsuma guimbeaui*. Natural sunlight is best.
FEEDING	The staple food for *Phelsuma guimbeaui* is crickets. For variety, give waxworm larvae, mealworm beetles in the larval stage or other small insects, and very rarely mealworms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Phelsuma guimbeaui* is diurnal and lives strictly in trees. The species is not particularly shy in the enclosure and is an animal to watch, not to handle.
NATIVE RANGE	Mauritius.