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GECKOS

Gold dust day gecko

Phelsuma laticauda

A small, shiny green day gecko from northern Madagascar and the Comoros with a sprinkling of gold dust over the neck and back and red streaks on the head and back. It is beautiful, quick and inquisitive, but delicate, and is best as an animal to watch, not to hold in the hand.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Pachydactylus laticauda*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 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	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**31-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-75%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-14 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**40-85 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single animal can live in a tall enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), but bigger is always better. A pair needs at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm, so that the female can get away from the male.
TEMPERATURE	By day there should be 26-30 °C in the enclosure and a basking spot of 31-33 °C on a branch under the lamp. Leave the lower part of the enclosure cooler, about 23-25 °C, so that the animal can choose for itself.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Keep humidity at 60-75 %. Mist thoroughly morning and evening, so that humidity briefly rises to 80 % or more, and let it fall again before the next misting. It is the daily drying out that keeps the substrate and plants healthy.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and used to strong sunlight, so the enclosure must be bright and have a heat lamp for the basking spot.
FEEDING	The staple is small, well-fed insects such as crickets, dubia roaches, soldier fly larvae and now and then waxworms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is quick, watchful and a little nervous, and does best when it is left in peace. The skin is thin and easily damaged, and the tail is dropped under stress or rough treatment.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar, Comoros and Mayotte.