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GECKOS

Peacock day gecko

Phelsuma quadriocellata

Phelsuma quadriocellata is a small, light green day gecko from the east coast of Madagascar, with red markings on the back and dark, blue-edged spots on the sides. It is diurnal and lives high up in the branches, so it suits a large, densely planted enclosure, but not handling.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Pachydactylus quadriocellatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-13 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-15 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	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-6**
Incubation	**42-53 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). Height is important because *Phelsuma quadriocellata* lives up in the branches and uses all the space it is given.

TEMPERATURE

Phelsuma quadriocellata needs a clear temperature gradient. The basking spot at the top should be 30-32 °C and the cooler zone down in the enclosure about 22 °C. The rest of the air is kept at 22-26 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should be 60-70 %. This is achieved with a moisture-retaining substrate, regular misting and possibly a small fogger or a waterfall. Mist once or twice a day, so the air is humid and the foliage dries between mistings.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs strong light and UVB. A T5 tube with 6 % UVB, placed 30-40 cm above the highest basking spot, gives a UV index of about 3-4, corresponding to Ferguson zone 3.

FEEDING

Phelsuma quadriocellata is omnivorous and in the wild eats insects, nectar and soft fruit.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Phelsuma quadriocellata is shy, quick and nervous, and is best kept as a display animal. It cannot be accustomed to handling. When it feels threatened, it can shed a piece of skin.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.