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GECKOS

Rock semaphore gecko

Pristurus rupestris

A small, diurnal rock gecko from the Hajar Mountains in Oman and the coast of Iran, which curls its tail over its back and signals with it. It reaches only 5-7 cm in total length including the tail, and very little is known about its care.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Pristurus rupestris iranicus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-7 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**28-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**70-90 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Very little is known about the care of *Pristurus rupestris*.
TEMPERATURE	Provide a gradient with 28-30 °C at the cool end and a basking spot of 40-45 °C under a small spotlight. At night the temperature may fall to about 20-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air must be dry, around 30-40 %. Provide a very shallow dish of fresh water, or put stones in the dish so that a small gecko cannot drown.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*P. rupestris* is diurnal and basks, so it needs strong daylight and UVB over the basking spot, for example a T5 tube with a low UVB output.
FEEDING	The species eats small arthropods. Offer springtails, fruit flies, newly hatched crickets and other very small insects that are no wider than the animal's head.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Pristurus rupestris* is fast and wary and is not suited to handling, and the tail can break off if the animal is grabbed. The species signals with its tail and with push-ups and is clearly visible during the day.
NATIVE RANGE	Oman and Iran.