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GECKOS

Cape York pad-tail gecko

Pseudothecadactylus australis

A large, nocturnal tree gecko from the Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait islands in the far north of Australia. The species is rarely kept and very little is known about its care, so this guide is based on the climate of its range and on close relatives.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Thecadactylus australis; Torresia australis; Rhacodactylus australis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-29 °C**
Basking spot	**29-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**60-85%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**70-120 days** at 24-28 °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 *Pseudothecadactylus australis*. This guide is based on the climate of its range, the size of the animal and its arboreal way of life.
TEMPERATURE	The figures are estimated from the climate of the range. By day the temperature should be 25-29 °C and at night 22-25 °C. A small area near the top may reach 29-31 °C. The temperature must not exceed 32 °C for long.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-85 %. Mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening so that it rises towards 85 %, and let it fall during the day so that the substrate and branches can dry out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and should not have strong light. A weak UVB light for shade-dwelling species (Ferguson zone 1) is optional, but a safe supplement when the food does not contain much vitamin D3.
FEEDING	The diet of *Pseudothecadactylus australis* is not documented. Insects are the safe staple, as with other large, nocturnal geckos. Give adults large insects such as crickets, locusts and dubia roaches 2-3 times a week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Behaviour in captivity is not documented. A frightened gecko can shed its tail, so keep handling to a minimum, and never grab the tail. Whether several animals can be kept together is not documented either.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.