herpy

GECKOS

Rough-snouted giant gecko

Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus

Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus is a rare, nocturnal tree-dweller from New Caledonia with rough scales on the snout and an unusual trait: it gives birth to live young, which in the genus it shares only with a single close relative. The species is vulnerable in the wild and only rarely seen in enclosures, and the guide is partly based on experience with its closest relatives.

Family: Diplodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-38 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1-2 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**150-240 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The care of *Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus* is almost unknown, so the care advice is borrowed from the closely related *Rhacodactylus leachianus* and is a cautious starting point.

TEMPERATURE

By day 22-27 °C is suitable for *Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus*, and at night it may fall to 18-22 °C. A basking spot is unnecessary, because the species is nocturnal and belongs in a mild climate.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Keep the humidity for *Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus* at 50-80 %. Mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening, so that it rises to 70-80 %, and let it fall again during the day, so that substrate and branches have time to dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus is nocturnal and probably, like the genus' other species, manages without UVB when the food contains vitamin D3. UVB is therefore optional.

FEEDING

Like all *Rhacodactylus* species, *Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus* is probably omnivorous, with insects and fruit as the main food and occasionally small lizards, nestling birds and rodents.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Males of *Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus* often fight if they are together, while females are social and can be kept together. Therefore never keep two males in the same enclosure. A male can be kept alone or with one or two females.

NATIVE RANGE

New Caledonia.