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GECKOS

Rough-throated leaf-tailed gecko

Saltuarius salebrosus

Saltuarius salebrosus is a large, nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko from central-eastern and southern Queensland, Australia. It has a rough throat covered in tubercles, skin that resembles lichen-covered bark, and a broad, leaf-shaped tail. It tolerates more heat than the other species in the genus, does well in captivity and is a calm species for the experienced keeper.

Family: Carphodactylidae Former name: *Phyllurus salebrosus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 80 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-21 °C**
Humidity	**55-100%**
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**10-16 °C** 9-13 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Incubation	**95-105 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Two or three animals can be kept in an enclosure of 60 × 40 × 80 cm (length × width × height). Furnish it with vertical pieces of rigid bark and a few branches so that the animals can move around the whole enclosure.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature is 22-26 °C and the night temperature 19-21 °C. The figures for temperature, humidity, rest period and incubation are borrowed from the related *Phyllurus platurus*.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Mist the enclosure thoroughly 2-3 times a week. After misting the humidity rises towards 100 % and should then fall to about 55-60 %, so bark and substrate can dry out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and lives hidden during the day, and UVB is not necessary. Give the enclosure a fixed daily rhythm with dim daylight and darkness at night.
FEEDING	The species takes ordinary feeder insects such as crickets and cockroaches. In the breeding season it is fed three times a week, and for the rest of the year every other week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Saltuarius salebrosus* is a calm, nocturnal species that sits still on bark during the day. It makes few demands, but it should not be handled more than strictly necessary, and never by the tail, which it sheds.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.