herpy

GECKOS

Ocellated gecko

Sphaerodactylus argus

A small, diurnal dwarf gecko from Jamaica and the islands of San Andrés and Providencia, only just over 6 cm long including the tail. *Sphaerodactylus argus* is brownish with yellow dots and lines on the head, lives in dry forest and leaf litter and can be kept in pairs in a small, secure enclosure.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Sphaerodactylus argus andresensis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**20 × 20 × 20 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**6-10 months**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**100 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Sphaerodactylus argus*, but the species is easy to keep and breed. It is kept like the related *Sphaerodactylus elegans* and *Sphaerodactylus macrolepis*, though a little drier.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 26-28 °C and by night 20-22 °C. In winter the daytime temperature may fall to 24 °C and the night temperature to 18 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 50-60 %, lower than for most other dwarf geckos, because the species lives in dry places. Spraying the enclosure every second day is enough when a small, shallow water bowl is available.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is diurnal. Keep the light on for 12 hours a day in spring and summer and 10 hours in winter.
FEEDING	The gecko is an insectivore, and all food must be small, no larger than the animal's head. Adults take small crickets, small woodlice, large fruit flies (*Drosophila hydei*), wax moths and wax moth larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Keep the species singly or as a pair. Two males must not be put together, because they fight.
NATIVE RANGE	Jamaica and Colombia.