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GECKOS

Fantastic least gecko

Sphaerodactylus fantasticus

A small, diurnal dwarf gecko from Guadeloupe, Dominica and Montserrat in the Lesser Antilles. Adults measure only 22-29 mm from snout to vent. The species lives in leaf litter and debris on the ground, most often near the coast, and males and females each have their own pattern on the head.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**22-29 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**20 × 20 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**29-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**80-90 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	Little is known about keeping *Sphaerodactylus fantasticus*.
TEMPERATURE	Keep *Sphaerodactylus fantasticus* at 24-28 °C during the day, and let the temperature fall to 18-22 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-70 %. Mist the enclosure daily, preferably in the morning or evening, so there are droplets on leaves and glass for the animals to drink from.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is diurnal but stays in shade and in the leaf litter. Keep the light on for about 12 hours in summer and 10-11 hours in winter, and keep the night dark. If there are live plants, an LED plant lamp is also needed.
FEEDING	The animals are insectivores and take only very small prey. Young need springtails, small fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), newly hatched crickets and small woodlice.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Keep *Sphaerodactylus fantasticus* singly or as a pair. Males must not be put together, because they fight, and in several dwarf geckos females too are incompatible. Separate the animals at signs of fighting.
NATIVE RANGE	Guadeloupe, Dominica and Montserrat.