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GECKOS

Black-spotted least gecko

Sphaerodactylus nigropunctatus

A diurnal dwarf gecko from the Bahamas and Cuba, measuring 3-4 cm from snout to vent. The sexes look very different: females have dark crossbands on a pale background, while males are spotted and can glow yellow to orange. The species is divided into many subspecies, and almost every island group has its own form.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** 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 the care of *Sphaerodactylus nigropunctatus*.
TEMPERATURE	Keep *Sphaerodactylus nigropunctatus* at 24-28 °C by day, and let the temperature fall to 18-22 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Keep the humidity at 60-70%. Mist the enclosure every day, morning or evening, so that there are droplets on leaves and glass for the animals to drink from.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is diurnal, but stays in the shade and in the leaf layer. 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 needed.
FEEDING	The animals are insectivores and take only very small prey. Juveniles should be given springtails, small fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), newly hatched crickets and small woodlice.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Keep *Sphaerodactylus nigropunctatus* singly or as a pair. Males must not be housed together, because they fight, and in several dwarf geckos females are also incompatible. Separate the animals at any sign of fighting.
NATIVE RANGE	Bahamas and Cuba.