herpy

GECKOS

Barbour's least gecko

Sphaerodactylus torrei

A small, diurnal gecko from south-eastern Cuba with a marked difference between the sexes: the male has a yellow head and a bright orange tail, while the female is pale with dark crossbands. *Sphaerodactylus torrei* grows to only about 8 cm including the tail, lays one egg at a time and needs small feeder insects and a tightly closed enclosure.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-28 °C**
Basking spot	**31-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
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**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**80-90 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair of *Sphaerodactylus torrei* can be kept in an enclosure of 60 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height). A single animal will manage in somewhat less. The animals are territorial, so keep either one animal or one pair.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 26-28 °C, and a small area may reach 31-32 °C in the summer half of the year. At night the temperature falls to about 24 °C. For a cool winter period the night can be lowered to about 18 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 60-80%. Mist the enclosure daily so that the humidity reaches 70-80%, and let the air dry out a little between mistings. Half of the substrate should be slightly damp, and the rest should be allowed to dry.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Sphaerodactylus torrei* is diurnal, and weak UVB lighting in Ferguson zone 1 is recommended. Use a low-output UVB tube over one half of the enclosure, so there is always shade.
FEEDING	*Sphaerodactylus torrei* feeds on small, live prey.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Sphaerodactylus torrei* is territorial and aggressive, so it is kept singly or as one pair with plenty of hiding places and space.
NATIVE RANGE	Cuba.