herpy

GECKOS

Northern spiny-tailed gecko

Strophurus ciliaris

Strophurus ciliaris is a slender, delicate gecko from inland and northern Australia with long spines above the eyes, a spiny tail and a brightly coloured mouth. It climbs about in shrubs and spinifex, likes to bask and can squirt a foul-smelling fluid from the tail if threatened.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Diplodactylus ciliaris*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**By day, at dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-29 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-25 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**6-10**
Incubation	**55-65 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Height matters more than floor area, because *Strophurus ciliaris* is a climber. One adult needs an enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

The enclosure for *Strophurus ciliaris* should have a warm zone at the top and a cooler zone at the bottom. By day it should be 25-29 °C with a hot spot of 30-32 °C high up.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Strophurus ciliaris needs low humidity. Concrete figures are not documented, but 30-50 % suits the species' dry habitats.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Strophurus ciliaris is active at dusk and at night, but also basks by day. UVB is probably beneficial and is recommended.

FEEDING

Strophurus ciliaris lives on arthropods and is not fussy.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Strophurus ciliaris is curious and bold at feeding and often comes forward to meet the insects, but it is easily stressed by handling and is not an animal to be picked up every day.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.