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GECKOS

Southern spiny-tailed gecko

Strophurus intermedius

Strophurus intermedius is a sturdily built spiny-tailed gecko from the semi-arid mallee scrub and woodland of southern Australia. The back and tail carry two rows of orange-brown tubercles, and when in danger it squirts a sticky, foul-smelling fluid from the tail. It climbs in bushes and trees, but also spends much time on the ground.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Diplodactylus intermedius*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-25 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-5**
Incubation	**45-60 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Spiny-tailed geckos use space well, so the enclosure does not need to be large. A pair can be kept in 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and a male with several females needs more space.
TEMPERATURE	Use 25-30 °C by day and a basking spot of 30-32 °C high up on a branch. At night the heat is switched off, and the temperature may fall to 18-25 °C. The figures are borrowed from the other species in the genus.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate, about 40-60 %, and the enclosure must dry out completely during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species basks occasionally, so UVB is an advantage, especially for young animals and breeding females.
FEEDING	In the wild *Strophurus intermedius* feeds exclusively on arthropods: spiders, centipedes, scorpions, cockroaches, crickets, beetles and their larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Strophurus intermedius* is an animal to watch and should not be handled more than strictly necessary. It can squirt its sticky, foul-smelling fluid, and it can lose its tail. Never grab the animal by the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.