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GECKOS

South-western Spiny-tailed Gecko

Strophurus spinigerus

Strophurus spinigerus is a small spiny-tailed gecko from south-western Australia. It is olive-grey with two rows of black spines on the tail and often a broad, jagged black stripe down the back. It climbs in bushes and trees at night and can squirt a sticky, foul-smelling fluid from the tail when it is startled.

Family: Diplodactylidae English name: South-western spiny-tailed gecko Former name: *Diplodactylus spinigerus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-11 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and temperate woodland and meadow**
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	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-6**
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	Little is known about keeping *Strophurus spinigerus*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 25-30 °C, and on a branch high up there should be a basking spot of 30-32 °C. At night the heat is switched off, and the temperature may fall to 18-25 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate, about 40-60 %, and the terrarium should dry out completely during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species basks in the wild among the thin branches, so UVB is an advantage.
FEEDING	In the wild the genus feeds on arthropods: spiders, cockroaches, crickets, beetles, termites and their larvae. In the terrarium small crickets, cockroaches, moths, flies and wax moth larvae suit.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Strophurus spinigerus* is an animal to look at, and it should not be handled more than strictly necessary. It can squirt its sticky, foul-smelling fluid and can lose its tail, so never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.