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GECKOS

Eastern spiny-tailed gecko

Strophurus williamsi

Strophurus williamsi is a small tree-dweller from the dry interior of eastern Australia. The back and tail are covered in yellow-orange spines, and when threatened it squirts a sticky, foul-smelling fluid from the tail. It likes to bask by day, but hunts mostly at dusk and at night. Only a few reliable husbandry records exist for this particular species, so it is best suited to experienced keepers.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Diplodactylus williamsi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-13 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-10 years**
Active	**By day, at dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
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 or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-5**
Incubation	**43-80 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 the care of *Strophurus williamsi*, so the figures in the care sections are based on the genus, especially the close relatives *Strophurus ciliaris* and *Strophurus taenicauda*.
TEMPERATURE	*Strophurus williamsi* needs warmth and lives in a climate with large daily variation. Use a daytime temperature of 25-30 °C in the enclosure and a basking spot of about 30-32 °C, which the gecko can approach and leave again.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	For *Strophurus williamsi* the humidity should be moderate, about 40-60%, and the enclosure should dry out completely during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Strophurus williamsi* basks in the wild, so it benefits from UVB.
FEEDING	In the wild *Strophurus williamsi* lives on arthropods, especially crickets, grasshoppers, moths, spiders and termites.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Strophurus williamsi* is mostly an animal to look at. It is quick and nervous and should be handled no more than strictly necessary.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.