herpy

GECKOS

Ringed wall gecko

Tarentola annularis

Tarentola annularis is a large, robust gecko from the dry regions of North Africa and the Sahel, with dark-edged white spots on the shoulders and a tail with distinct rings. It is nocturnal, climbs on rocks and house walls and reaches about 20 cm in length. Some of the care advice is based on the close relative *Tarentola mauritanica*.

Family: Phyllodactylidae Former name: *Gecko annularis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 70 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-20 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-8**
Incubation	**59-62 days** at 30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair needs a tall enclosure of at least 100 × 50 × 70 cm (length × width × height). The species is large and very active, so more space is always an advantage. Height is important because the gecko climbs.

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure should be 25-30 °C with a warm spot of 30-35 °C under a lamp, so the animal can choose how warm it wants to be. At night the temperature may fall to 18-20 °C, and room temperature is often enough.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Keep the enclosure dry with a humidity of 40-60%. The lower part of the range suits best, also for breeding animals, because the species comes from dry regions. Avoid misting the whole enclosure.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and can live without UVB when it gets calcium and vitamin D3 through the food. UVB is therefore optional.

FEEDING

In the wild the species eats arthropods and occasionally small lizards. In captivity insects are enough: crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches and now and then waxworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The gecko is robust and pugnacious and not an animal for handling. It readily bites if grabbed, and squeaks when it feels threatened. Never grab the tail, and give new animals a couple of weeks in peace to settle in.

NATIVE RANGE

Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Uganda.