herpy

GECKOS

Tenerife wall gecko

Tarentola delalandii

A robust, tubercle-scaled gecko from Tenerife and La Palma that lives on cliffs, stone walls and in gardens from the coast up to about 2,300 m. Little is known about its care, so this guide is based on the climate and on the close relative *Tarentola mauritanica*.

Family: Phyllodactylidae Former name: *Platydactylus delalandii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °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**
Incubation	**55-98 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Tarentola delalandii*. This guide is based on the climate and habitat and on the closely related *Tarentola mauritanica*, which is far better known in captivity.

TEMPERATURE
The daytime temperature should be 24-28 °C, and under a lamp there should be a basking spot of 30-33 °C. At night the temperature falls to 16-20 °C. There must always be a cool end.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The species comes from dry to semi-arid regions and manages with 40-60 % humidity. Mist the enclosure lightly in the evening and let it dry out again. Stagnant air and persistent damp cause mould and respiratory infections.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Tarentola delalandii is nocturnal and spends the day in hiding, but weak UVB lighting of 2-5 % is recommended over part of the enclosure so that the animal can choose between light and shade (Ferguson zone 2).

FEEDING
The species takes insects and spiders. Offer crickets, small cockroaches and locusts, and occasionally waxworms as a treat. Choose insects that are smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Tarentola delalandii is wary and not an animal to be picked up. Handling stresses it, and it sheds its tail if it feels threatened. Males defend hides and hunting territory, so never keep two males together.

NATIVE RANGE
Spain.