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GECKOS

Persian wonder gecko

Teratoscincus keyserlingii

A large, nocturnal desert gecko with frog-like eyes and a tail covered in large, tile-like plates. It lives in sandy deserts in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in a small, threatened population in the United Arab Emirates. It is rarely kept, and little is known about its care.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Teratoscincus scincus keyserlingii; Teratoscincus zarudnyi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**16-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 60 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-110 days** at 28-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Teratoscincus keyserlingii*.
TEMPERATURE	The species needs a clear temperature gradient.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	This is a desert species, and the enclosure should be dry with a humidity of 30-50%. Do not mist the whole enclosure.
LIGHTING AND UVB	As a nocturnal animal, the gecko has no great lighting needs, and it can manage without UVB when the food is dusted with vitamin D3.
FEEDING	The gecko is an insectivore. Offer varied live food such as crickets, locusts and dubia roaches, and mealworms or waxworms as an occasional treat.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Teratoscincus keyserlingii* is calm and watchful, but fragile. The thin skin can tear if you take too firm a hold, and the tail is easily shed, so the animal should be handled as little as possible and never by the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates.