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GECKOS

Small-scaled Wonder Gecko

Teratoscincus microlepis

A small, nocturnal sand gecko with large, frog-like eyes and fine, slightly overlapping scales on the back. It lives in loose sandy soils in south-eastern Iran, southern Afghanistan and western Pakistan. It is rarely kept, and the care is based on the closely related desert species in the genus.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae English name: Small-scaled wonder gecko

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-11 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-110 days** at 28-29 °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 keeping *Teratoscincus microlepis*, and the species is rarely kept.
TEMPERATURE	The species needs a clear temperature gradient. By day the cool end should be 25-28 °C, and a warm area should reach 32-35 °C at the sand surface, for example under a heat bulb or a ceramic heater controlled by a thermostat.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species is a desert species, and the terrarium must be dry with a humidity of 30-50 %. Do not mist the whole terrarium.
LIGHTING AND UVB	As a nocturnal animal the gecko does not make great demands on light, and it manages without UVB when the food is dusted with vitamin D3.
FEEDING	The gecko is an insectivore. Offer varied live food such as crickets, grasshoppers, dubia cockroaches and very small mealworms. The insects must be smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Teratoscincus microlepis* is shy and quickly retreats into its burrow when the light is switched on.
NATIVE RANGE	Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.