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GECKOS

Arabian sand gecko

Trigonodactylus arabicus

Trigonodactylus arabicus is a small, slender sand gecko from the Arabian Peninsula. It lives on loose, wind-blown sand, buries itself during the day and hunts insects at night. The species is rare in captivity, and little is known about its care.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Stenodactylus arabicus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 25 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**33-36 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 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 *Trigonodactylus arabicus*. The recommendations are based on the climate and habitat in its range.
TEMPERATURE	During the day the temperature should be 25-30 °C, with 33-36 °C at a basking spot at one end, so that the animal can choose. At night the temperature may fall to 18-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air should be dry: 20-40% during the day. The sand should be dry at the surface. A small corner deep down in the sand can be kept slightly moist, so that the animal has somewhere to rest when shedding.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and lives hidden during the day. No UVB requirement is documented.
FEEDING	Its food is small live insects: small crickets, small roaches, springtails for young animals and small mealworms in small amounts. The insects should be smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Trigonodactylus arabicus* is shy and fast and moves with the body pressed down against the sand. The animal should not be handled, because it is fragile and easily stressed.
NATIVE RANGE	Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen, Iran and Jordan.