herpy

GECKOS

Steudner's dwarf gecko

Tropiocolotes steudneri

One of the smallest geckos in the world, only 5-7 cm including the tail, from the eastern Sahara and the Sinai. It is active from dusk and at night, lives peacefully in groups and can be kept in an enclosure as small as 20 × 20 × 20 cm. Together with *Tropiocolotes tripolitanus* it is the most commonly kept species in the genus.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus steudneri; Stenodactylus petersii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-7 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**20 × 20 × 20 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs, one male with several females or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Tropiocolotes steudneri and *Tropiocolotes tripolitanus* are cared for in the same way, and most of the knowledge about the care of the genus is based on these two species.

TEMPERATURE

Keep 26-30 °C by day and a small hot spot of 35-45 °C at one end, measured on a flat stone under the lamp.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The air must be dry, about 30-50 % and not above 60 %. Mist part of the enclosure two to three times a week in the evening or early in the morning: the animals lick the droplets from stones and hides, as they lick dew in the wild.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Tropiocolotes steudneri is most active from dusk and at night, but gladly uses the hot spot, and a fixed daily rhythm is important.

FEEDING

Tropiocolotes steudneri lives on very small insects and other arthropods and has a large appetite and fast metabolism.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Tropiocolotes steudneri is small but very active and hunts eagerly, especially in the evening. Despite the many wild-caught animals, the species is often calm and confident, eats openly and comes out when the enclosure is opened.

NATIVE RANGE

Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Jordan.