herpy

GECKOS

Common flat-tail gecko

Uroplatus fimbriatus

The classic of the genus and one of the largest leaf-tailed geckos: a fringed, bark-coloured nocturnal animal from the rainforests of eastern Madagascar that blends into the tree trunk by day. It is impressive to look at, but needs cool temperatures, high humidity and a patient, experienced keeper.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Stellio fimbriatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-33 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**7-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-21 °C**
Humidity	**65-95%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**100-230 days** at 18-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The species uses height, so the enclosure must be tall.
TEMPERATURE	The species tolerates heat poorly and must be kept cooler than many think. By day 22-25 °C is suitable, and at night the temperature should fall to 17-21 °C. The night-time drop is an important part of the daily rhythm.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	High humidity is the most important part of care, because the species dries out easily. Keep humidity at 65-70 % by day and 80-95 % at night, and let the substrate dry out a little during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active at dusk and at night and belongs to Ferguson zone 1 together with other shade animals. A weak UVB light is recommended for the whole genus.
FEEDING	The species eats insects and takes almost only live prey. Offer a mix of crickets, locusts, dubia roaches and large mealworms, and waxworms as a treat. Prey must be no wider than the distance between the gecko's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko relies on camouflage rather than flight and is shy and sensitive to stress. Wild-caught animals jump and may bite when touched. Captive-bred animals are calmer, but they too are unsuited to frequent handling.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.