herpy

GECKOS

Satanic leaf-tailed gecko

Uroplatus phantasticus

A small, nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko from the rainforests of Madagascar, whose flat, notched tail looks like a withered leaf. It is a master of camouflage and one of the most remarkable animals for the terrarium, but it is delicate and requires cool nights, high humidity and an experienced keeper.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Uroplates phantasticus; Uroplatus schneideri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**21-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-18 °C**
Humidity	**60-100%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-5**
Incubation	**67-130 days** at 20-25 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult can be kept in a tall enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height). A pair or a male with a pair of females needs at least 40 × 40 × 60 cm, and more space is almost always better.
TEMPERATURE	The species tolerates heat very poorly. By day the temperature should be 21-25 °C, and at night it should fall to 15-18 °C. The clear drop at night is an important part of the animal's rhythm.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should fluctuate as in the rainforest: high at night, up towards 90-100 %, and lower by day, down towards 60 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and can live without UVB when the food is dusted with vitamin D3.
FEEDING	The gecko feeds on live insects, which it hunts at night. Offer small crickets, locusts, roaches, flies and the like, smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is a quiet, secretive animal that sits motionless and camouflaged all day and only becomes active when it is dark. It should be handled only when necessary, because stress and the heat of the hand can harm it.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.