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GECKOS

Mossy leaf-tailed gecko

Uroplatus sikorae

A medium-sized leaf-tailed gecko whose skin is patterned like bark with moss and lichen. By day it hangs head-down on a trunk in the Madagascan rainforest and is almost impossible to spot. It is smaller than its large relatives, but just as sensitive to heat and drought and best kept by an experienced keeper.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Uroplatus fimbriatus sikorae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**10-30 g**
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**21-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-100%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-120 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 needs a tall enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). A pair can also be kept in the same size, but a larger enclosure gives more peace and a better temperature difference.

TEMPERATURE

The species is sensitive to heat. By day the temperature should be 21-25 °C and by night 16-21 °C. The temperature must not exceed 25 °C for any length of time, and above 27 °C is dangerous.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be high: about 60-80 % by day and close to 100 % at night. Mist thoroughly every evening and preferably in the morning too, 2-3 times a day in total, and keep the substrate damp, but not wet.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and lives in shade, so it needs only a little UVB. A weak UVB light is nevertheless recommended, for example a 5 % T5 tube, because it gives a clear daily rhythm and helps D3 metabolism.

FEEDING

The gecko feeds on live prey: crickets, dubia roaches, locusts, silkworms, caterpillars and preferably small snails, which the females especially like. Use captive-bred snails, not wild ones, which can carry poison and parasites.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The gecko is quiet and withdrawn. By day it sits without moving, and at night it becomes active. It is not suited to daily handling, because stress lowers appetite and weakens the immune system, and it may shed its tail.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.