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IGUANAS

Common Puerto Rican Anole

Anolis cristatellus

Anolis cristatellus is a stocky, diurnal anole from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The male has a tall, fin-like crest on the tail that is always erect, and a greenish-yellow dewlap with an orange-red margin, which he extends while bobbing and doing push-ups. The species lives on trunks and low down in the vegetation, is territorial and very shy, and needs UVB, live food and an enclosure with both branches and floor space.

Family: Dactyloidae Former name: *Anolis cozumelae; Anolis lindeni; Ctenonotus cristatellus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-29 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**45-55 days** at 26-28 °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 keeping *Anolis cristatellus*.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be 26-29 °C by day, and the basking spot should have a surface temperature of 32-35 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The cooler side is 24-26 °C. At night 20-24 °C is suitable.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-80 %: lower in the middle of the day and higher at night.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Anolis cristatellus* is diurnal and needs UVB every day to produce vitamin D3 and absorb calcium. The UVB lamp should give Ferguson zone 2, i.e. a moderate UV index at the basking spot.
FEEDING	The species is insectivorous and takes live prey that moves: crickets, cockroaches (such as dubia and discoid), grasshoppers, silkworms, hornworms, small superworms and soldier fly larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy, quick and not an animal for handling. It can drop its tail, and it does not grow back in the same form.
NATIVE RANGE	Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands.