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IGUANAS

Green Basilisk

Basiliscus plumifrons

Basiliscus plumifrons is a slender, bright green lizard from the rainforests of Central America, known for running on two legs across water. The male has crests on the head, back and tail. The species is diurnal, fast and shy and needs a tall, humid and warm enclosure with a water section, UVB and live food.

Family: Corytophanidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**45-90 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**7-13 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-26 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-24 months**
Clutch size	**4-19 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-5**
Incubation	**56-70 days** at 28-31 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better. Height is important because the species climbs and basks high up.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be kept at 25-30 °C during the day, and the basking spot should have a surface temperature of 35-40 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. At night 23-26 °C is suitable.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-80 %. Mist the enclosure and foliage 1-2 times a day, or use a fogging or rain system on a timer, and measure with a hygrometer.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The enclosure must have a water section that is large and deep enough for the animal to lie in and swim. The species heads for the water when frightened and can stay under the surface for several minutes.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Basiliscus plumifrons* is diurnal and needs UVB all day to produce D3 and absorb calcium.
FEEDING	*Basiliscus plumifrons* is mostly a predator and eats live, moving prey. The diet consists of insects: crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches, superworms and larvae. Mealworms and waxworms are fatty and are given only now and then.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy, nervous and fast and not an animal for handling. Captive-bred animals bought young settle in better than wild-caught ones.
NATIVE RANGE	Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.