herpy

IGUANAS

Smooth Helmeted Iguana

Corytophanes cristatus

Corytophanes cristatus is a long-legged, tree-dwelling lizard from the rainforests of Central and South America, with a tall, helmet-like crest on the back of the head and a serrated crest along the back. It sits motionless for hours, waiting for large insects, shifts between grey, olive-brown and reddish-brown, and is very shy. It needs a tall, humid enclosure, UVB, live food and calm.

Family: Corytophanidae Former name: *Agama cristata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-35 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-30 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**4-11 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 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	A single adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 90 cm (length × width × height). Larger is better, especially wider.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be kept at 27-30 °C by day, and the warmest spot, a thick branch under a lamp, should have a surface temperature of 32-35 °C measured with an infrared thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-70 % by day and rise to 70-80 % at night.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Corytophanes cristatus* is active by day and needs UVB all day, even though it is a shade species.
FEEDING	The species is insectivorous and takes large, slow prey: cockroaches (such as discoid and dubia), silkworms, hornworms, grasshoppers, superworms and earthworms. Feeder insects should be about as large as the animal's head.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy and peaceful but sensitive to disturbance, and it is better suited to observing than to handling. It often sits perfectly still for hours and moves slowly.
NATIVE RANGE	Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia.