herpy

IGUANAS

Rhinoceros Iguana

Cyclura cornuta

Cyclura cornuta is a heavy, powerful rock iguana from the dry regions of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. It has horn-like bumps on the snout, grows to 60-136 cm and weighs 4.5-9 kg. The species is threatened in the wild. Captive-bred animals are usually calm, but the species needs a small room of its own, strong heat and UVB, a plant-based diet and care for 20 years or more.

Family: Iguanidae Former name: *Aloponotus cornutus; Iguana cornuta; Lacerta cornuta; Metopoceros cornutus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-136 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**4,500-9,000 g**
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert, dry forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**400 × 250 × 200 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**27-33 °C**
Basking spot	**36-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Fruit and plants**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-108 months**
Clutch size	**5-24 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**85-92 days** at 30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Space is the decisive factor in keeping *Cyclura cornuta*; too little space and too little sunlight are the main reasons the animals do not thrive in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be 27-33 °C during the day, and the burrows may be slightly cooler. The basking spot should be 36-42 °C on the surface.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from a dry climate, and the humidity in the enclosure should be moderate, around 40-60 %. The figures are not documented for the species but are based on the climate of its habitat.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Cyclura cornuta* is diurnal and needs heat, strong daylight and UVB.
FEEDING	The species is almost purely herbivorous. The basis is leafy greens: dandelion and cabbage leaves such as turnip greens and mustard greens, supplemented with endive, chicory and watercress.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Captive-bred animals are mostly calm and tolerant, and some seek attention. Mood can vary, and an otherwise friendly animal may have periods when it wants to be left alone.
NATIVE RANGE	Haiti and Dominican Republic.