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CAMÉLÉONS

Graceful Chameleon

Chamaeleo gracilis

Chamaeleo gracilis is a medium to large, green to yellowish brown chameleon with a low casque, almost no lobes and a pale stripe along the flank. It lives in forests, scrub and savannas across large parts of Africa south of the Sahara and is one of the most common chameleons in the trade, where almost all animals are wild-caught. It needs a tall mesh enclosure with UVB, drinks only droplets and must live alone.

Famille: Chamaeleonidae Ancien nom: *Chamaeleo burchelli; Chamaeleo granulosus; Chamaeleo simoni*

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**30-40 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Espérance de vie	**3-5 ans**
Activité	**Le jour**
Mode de vie	**Arboricole**
Habitat	**Savane, forêt sèche et forêt tropicale humide**
Difficulté	**Intermédiaire**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**60 × 45 × 90 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**21-26 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**26-32 °C**
Température, nuit	**15-20 °C**
Hygrométrie	**50-70 %**
Eau	**Pas de gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Indispensables** Zone de Ferguson 3
Alimentation	**Insectes**
Détention	**Seul**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**4-5 mois**
Taille de la ponte	**20-40 œufs**
Pontes par an	**1-2**
Incubation	**210-365 jours** à 22-27 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Annexe II**
Annexe UE	**Annexe B**
UICN	**Préoccupation mineure (LC)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM

Chamaeleo gracilis is not a beginner species. Care is the same as for the closely related *Chamaeleo dilepis* and *Chamaeleo senegalensis*, and where figures are missing for the species itself, they are borrowed from them.

TEMPÉRATURE

By day the temperature in the enclosure with *Chamaeleo gracilis* should be 21-26 °C, and on a basking branch it should be 26-32 °C.

HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU

Humidity for *Chamaeleo gracilis* should be 50-70%. This is achieved by misting several times a day over all surfaces and with live plants; in a dry room, a cool-mist fogger or a timer-controlled rain system can help.

ÉCLAIRAGE ET UVB

Chamaeleo gracilis is diurnal and needs 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness. A UVB tube or UVB bulb is necessary, because the animal synthesises D3 in its skin and needs it to absorb calcium.

ALIMENTATION

Chamaeleo gracilis eats live insects: crickets, silkworms, hornworms, cockroaches such as *Blaptica dubia* and the occasional superworm. Mealworms and waxworms are fatty and are given only as a change.

COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION

Chamaeleo gracilis is shy but relatively calm around humans. It is an animal to look at, not to pick up. Handling stresses it and should only be done when necessary.

AIRE D'ORIGINE

Sénégal, Gambie, Guinée, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Bénin, Nigeria, Cameroun, République centrafricaine, Congo-Kinshasa, Soudan, Soudan du Sud, Éthiopie, Somalie, Ouganda, Kenya et Tanzanie.