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CAMÉLÉONS

Crested Chameleon

Trioceros cristatus

Trioceros cristatus is a medium-sized chameleon from the lowland forests of West and Central Africa. The male has a tall, fan-shaped sail crest on the back and tail, and the skin between the throat scales is bright red or orange. The species is difficult to keep and needs constantly high humidity, so it is only for the very experienced keeper.

Famille: Chamaeleonidae Ancien nom: *Chamaeleo cristatus*

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**25-28 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Espérance de vie	**3-5 ans**
Activité	**Le jour**
Mode de vie	**Arboricole et terrestre**
Habitat	**Forêt tropicale humide**
Difficulté	**Expert**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**60 × 60 × 90 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**23-25 °C**
Température, nuit	**20-23 °C**
Hygrométrie	**80-100 %**
UVB	**Recommandés** Zone de Ferguson 2
Alimentation	**Insectes**
Détention	**Seul**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Taille de la ponte	**11-37 œufs**
Pontes par an	**1-2**
Incubation	**240-300 jours** à 19-22 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

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

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM

Little is known about the care of *Trioceros cristatus*, and the species is very difficult to keep, even for experienced keepers. An adult needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 90 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPÉRATURE

The temperature should be fairly constant: 23-25 °C by day and only a couple of degrees lower at night, 20-23 °C. The species rarely basks, so a strong hot spot is not needed.

HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU

The species requires an extremely humid, almost wet environment. An ultrasonic fogger that runs constantly and lays dew in the enclosure, and an even drip system during the day, cover the need.

ÉCLAIRAGE ET UVB

The species is diurnal. It rarely basks, but benefits from plenty of UVB, and two UVB tubes over the enclosure can be used. Zone 2 is an estimate based on related forest chameleons such as *Trioceros deremensis*.

ALIMENTATION

Trioceros cristatus is an insectivore. Most ordinary feeder insects are taken readily, but the species is not an aggressive hunter.

COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION

The species is kept individually. Temperament varies from shy (usually the males) to aggressive (usually the females). Several animals together cause stress, and handling is limited to what is necessary.

AIRE D'ORIGINE

Guinée équatoriale, Cameroun, République centrafricaine, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana et Togo.