Gopher Tortoise

Gopherus polyphemus

Gopherus polyphemus is a large, dark tortoise from dry, sandy woodland in the south-eastern USA. It digs burrows up to 12 m long, which several hundred other animal species use as shelter. The shell length is 23-30 cm. The species needs a large outdoor enclosure with deep, dry sandy soil, plenty of grass and an artificial burrow.

Famille: Testudinidae

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**23-30 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Poids	**2 000-6 000 g**
Espérance de vie	**60-100 ans**
Activité	**Le jour**
Mode de vie	**Fouisseur**
Habitat	**Savane**
Difficulté	**Expérimenté**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**200 × 100 × 40 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**24-30 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**32-36 °C**
Température, nuit	**18-22 °C**
Hygrométrie	**40-70 %**
Eau	**Gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Indispensables** Zone de Ferguson 3
Alimentation	**Plantes**
Détention	**Seul ou en couple**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**108-240 mois**
Taille de la ponte	**3-15 œufs**
Pontes par an	**1**
Incubation	**60-90 jours** à 30-31 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Annexe II**
Annexe UE	**Annexe B**
UICN	**En danger critique (CR)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM	Little has been published about keeping *Gopherus polyphemus*. The care advice rests on the habitat and on the closely related *Gopherus agassizii*, which has the same burrowing way of life.
TEMPÉRATURE	By day the temperature should be 24-30 °C, with a basking spot of 32-36 °C under a heat lamp, measured on the substrate. At night 18-22 °C is suitable, and the heat is switched off.
HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU	The species needs a relative humidity of 40-70%, and in the burrow it can be up to 80%. Keep the surface dry, but make the burrow more humid by putting damp soil and leaves at the bottom.
ÉCLAIRAGE ET UVB	The species is diurnal and basks a lot. Sunlight is best, and the animal should be out in the sun as often as the weather allows. Indoors there must be UVB lighting with a UV index of 2.0-3.0 at the basking spot (Ferguson zone 3).
ALIMENTATION	*G. polyphemus* is a grazer, and grass makes up about 80% of the diet.
COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION	The animal is solitary and spends most of its time digging, eating and basking. In the wild the animals live in colonies with closely spaced burrows, and some females repeatedly visit the same female's burrow.
AIRE D'ORIGINE	États-Unis.