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GECKOS

Bibron's thick-toed gecko

Chondrodactylus bibronii

A robust, nocturnal rock gecko from the Karoo and the arid regions of southern Africa, with thick toes, knobbly skin and dark crossbands. It is hardy and easy to keep, but is often sold under the wrong name: many animals in the trade are in fact the closely related *Chondrodactylus turneri*.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Pachydactylus bibronii; Pachydactylus bibroni; Tarentola bibronii* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-23 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-6**
Incubation	**45-60 days** at 27-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
For one adult or a pair, 60 × 40 × 40 cm (length × width × height) is a good size, and bigger is better. One animal can manage in 50 × 25 × 30 cm, but a roomier terrarium suits the animal's size and territorial lifestyle better.

TEMPERATURE
The species copes with ordinary warmth, as long as part of the terrarium is warmer than the rest. Keep 24-28 °C by day with a warm corner of 30-33 °C, and let the temperature fall to 19-23 °C at night.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The species belongs in arid regions, and the terrarium should be dry and airy with a humidity of around 30-50 %.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is nocturnal and does not need UVB when the insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3, but many animals in captivity like to bask under a weak light.

FEEDING
The gecko is an insectivore and takes almost anything it can overpower. Crickets and mealworms are the classic staple, supplemented with locusts, dubia roaches and, once in a while, wax moth larvae.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is territorial, and adult males fight, often losing toes or pieces of skin. Males must therefore never be kept together. One male can be kept with two or three females if the terrarium is large and has many hides.

NATIVE RANGE
South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.