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GECKOS

Turner's thick-toed gecko

Chondrodactylus turneri

Chondrodactylus turneri is a sturdy, nocturnal gecko from savanna and rocky country in southern and eastern Africa, with large orange eyes, brown bands and adhesive lamellae under the toes. It is easy to keep, but shy and fast, so it suits best the keeper who wants to watch the animal rather than handle it.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Pachydactylus turneri; Homodactylus turneri* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-22 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**33-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**50-60 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair can be kept in an enclosure of 60 × 40 × 40 cm (length × width × height) or 80 × 40 × 40 cm. Even 60 × 30 × 30 cm can do, but more space makes it easier to create both warm and cool zones.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 25-28 °C during the day, and provide a warm spot, for example a stone under a spotlight, where the temperature may reach up to 35 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Chondrodactylus turneri* lives on dry rocks and in savanna, so the air should be kept relatively dry, around 30-50 %, as for its relatives *Chondrodactylus bibronii* and *Chondrodactylus angulifer*.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Chondrodactylus turneri* is nocturnal and sleeps in the crevices by day, so it does not need strong light. Use a timer to switch the light on and off, giving about 12 hours of day and complete darkness at night.
FEEDING	*Chondrodactylus turneri* has a good appetite and is not fussy. It eats crickets, cockroaches, mealworms, moths and grasshoppers.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Chondrodactylus turneri* is not an animal for handling. It can be wild and unpredictable. One day it basks calmly on a rock, and the next it bolts in panic as soon as anyone comes near. It is fast and can jump several centimetres.
NATIVE RANGE	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Eswatini, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.