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GECKOS

Malayan forest gecko

Cyrtodactylus pulchellus

A beautifully marked, nocturnal rock gecko from the forests of the island of Penang in Malaysia. It has large, golden eyes, bold bands across the body and toes with claws instead of adhesive lamellae. Only a few documented experiences of care and breeding exist, so the information here is cautious.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus pulchellus; Cyrtodactylus pulchella* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 23-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	No fixed minimum size has been documented for the species.
TEMPERATURE	The species tolerates heat poorly. A cautious starting point is 23-26 °C by day and 20-22 °C at night, corresponding to ordinary room temperature.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The gecko comes from a humid environment and needs high humidity, but a specific range has not been documented. 60-80 % is a reasonable estimate, borrowed from the care of other species in the genus, and the humidity should fluctuate so that the enclosure can also dry out a little.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and has not been documented as needing UVB. A weak UVB light that can be shaded out completely is regarded as optional and can be given to animals that are allowed to choose.
FEEDING	*Cyrtodactylus pulchellus* is an insectivore. Offer crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches and similar prey smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy and secretive and spends most of the day in a hide. When the lights go out it comes out and can move quickly and nimbly among rocks and branches.
NATIVE RANGE	Malaysia.