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GECKOS

Helmeted gecko

Diplodactylus galeatus

Diplodactylus galeatus is a small, reddish-brown desert gecko from the mountains of central Australia with a pale, boldly marked helmet on the head and a short, thick tail. It is nocturnal, lives on insects and can be kept in a small, dry enclosure, but it is very rare outside Australia.

Family: Diplodactylidae Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 25 × 25 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**29-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-4**
Incubation	**46-60 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The care of *Diplodactylus galeatus* has not been described in detail, so the recommendations here are based on the genus *Diplodactylus*. A glass enclosure or aquarium of about 20 litres is enough for a pair.

TEMPERATURE

The temperatures have not been studied for *Diplodactylus galeatus* either, so the figures are based on the genus. The heat should be at one end, so that the animal can choose.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Diplodactylus galeatus comes from dry regions, and the genus prefers a dry environment without much humidity. An exact figure is not documented, but about 30-50 % suits a dry enclosure.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Diplodactylus galeatus is nocturnal, and like the rest of the genus it does not need UVB. Give 10-12 hours of light a day, ideally controlled by a timer, and keep it dark at night.

FEEDING

Diplodactylus galeatus lives on small insects. Crickets make a good staple, but other small insects such as smaller grasshoppers, small dubia roaches and now and then waxworms can also be used.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Diplodactylus galeatus is quiet and somewhat shy. By day it sleeps in its hide and becomes active when the light goes off. The genus is fairly active in the evening, when the animals patrol around the enclosure.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.