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GECKOS

Madagascar clawless gecko

Ebenavia inunguis

Ebenavia inunguis is a small, nocturnal gecko from north-western Madagascar and Nosy Be, only about 8 cm including the tail. During the day it hides under bark and in dead wood. The name means "without claws", although the female has small claws on the hind feet. Care is relatively simple, but breeding in captivity rarely succeeds.

Family: Gekkonidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 24-27 °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 30 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height). In a larger enclosure one male can be kept with several females, and in some cases two males can also be kept together without problems.

TEMPERATURE

During the day the enclosure should be kept at 26-28 °C. At night the temperature drops to about 22 °C in summer and 18 °C in winter. The fluorescent tube normally gives sufficient warmth.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be around 70 %. It is easy to maintain by spraying the enclosure once a day, preferably in the evening, so that leaves and bark become damp.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is active at dusk and at night and hides during the day. The enclosure is lit and heated with a fluorescent tube, switched on 12 hours a day in summer and 10 hours in winter, controlled by a timer. UVB is optional.

FEEDING

The species lives on small insects and other small arthropods. Offer, for example, small crickets, fruit flies, springtails and small woodlice that are smaller than the animal's head.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Ebenavia inunguis is small, slow and stealthy, but it is not suited to handling. Animals you try to pick up may flee and drop the tail. Regard the species as an animal to watch in the enclosure, especially at dusk.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.