herpy

GECKOS

Peters' spotted gecko

Geckolepis maculata

A small, nocturnal tree dweller from north-western Madagascar with disproportionately large scales that come away when it is held firmly, so the animal can slip away from an enemy. It is hardy in the enclosure but fragile to handle and is best suited to being looked at.

Family: Gekkonidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-13 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**7-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Basking spot	**27-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 25-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

As an absolute minimum, a single adult needs an enclosure of 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better. Height matters more than floor area, because *Geckolepis maculata* lives up in the branches.

TEMPERATURE

By day it should be 20-24 °C in most of the enclosure, and a small warm area at the top may reach 27-29 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 17-21 °C. Heating at night is not necessary.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species needs high humidity: 60-80 % on average. Mist the enclosure in the evening so that the leaves and furnishings are damp, and again in the morning if necessary. The animal drinks droplets from leaves and furnishings.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal, and no need for UVB has been documented. Even so, a weak UVB light is recommended as a safeguard, because supplements of calcium and vitamins cannot entirely replace the light.

FEEDING

The bulk of the diet is live insects: crickets, grasshoppers, dubia roaches and the like. The insects should be slightly smaller than the animal's head and lightly dusted with calcium. Young and juveniles get insects daily.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Geckolepis maculata is a shy, curious, nocturnal gecko that most often sits on branches or on the glass at night. It becomes relatively tame if it is allowed to get used to you, and will readily take food from tweezers.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/geckolepis-maculata