herpy

GECKOS

Golden gecko

Gekko badenii

Gekko badenii is a medium-sized, golden climbing gecko from the granite cliffs of Vietnam with pale crossbands across the back and a calm disposition once it has settled in. It is nocturnal, eats both insects and fruit and does well in a medium-sized enclosure, but many animals in the trade are caught in the wild, and the species is assessed as endangered.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gekko ulikovskii* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 25-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult *Gekko badenii* needs an enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height). A tall enclosure of about 76 litres also suits a single adult, and one of about 110 litres a pair or a trio.

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure is kept at 23-29 °C, and at night at 21-23 °C. A heat bulb or a ceramic heat emitter controlled by a thermostat can keep up the heat if the room is too cold.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should be 60-80 %, because *Gekko badenii* comes from rainforest. Mist the enclosure daily with lukewarm water, so that the humidity rises and the gecko can drink the droplets from leaves and glass.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Gekko badenii is nocturnal and does not need UVB light as long as it gets vitamin D3 through the food. If you still want to give UVB, use a weak tube for shade-dwelling animals.

FEEDING

Gekko badenii eats both insects and fruit. Give a varied diet of crickets, cockroaches and mealworms, supplemented with ripe mango, papaya and banana or prepared food for *Correlophus ciliatus*, mixed into fruit purée.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Gekko badenii is fast and has very delicate skin, so it is not suited to much handling. Some bite, but most are not aggressive.

NATIVE RANGE

Vietnam.