herpy

GECKOS

Wiegmann's striped gecko

Gonatodes vittatus

A small, diurnal gecko from Venezuela, Colombia and the islands off the coast, where the male has a white stripe with a black edge down the back and a yellow head. It climbs on tree trunks and walls but cannot climb glass, and it does well in a small enclosure if kept alone or as a pair.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus vittatus; Gonatodes gillii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**29-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-60%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**65-110 days** at 25-30 °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). This is a minimum, and a larger enclosure is better, especially if several animals share it.

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure should be 24-27 °C. A warm spot of 29-32 °C can be made with a heat mat or a lamp, but it is not necessary if the temperature is otherwise high and stable.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Gonatodes vittatus thrives in drier air than most tropical geckos. Keep the humidity at 50-60 %.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal, but whether it needs UVB is debated. UV light is suspected of causing problems with shedding, but animals under UV light, on the other hand, seem to breed more readily.

FEEDING

Gonatodes vittatus eats insects and other small arthropods. Juveniles can take prey the size of pinheads: newly hatched crickets (up to about 3 mm), fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), springtails and small white isopods.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is bold and curious and is often seen by day, but it is not an animal to be handled. The skin can be torn if the animal is grabbed, and the animals are easily stressed. Enjoy it instead from the other side of the glass.

NATIVE RANGE

Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Aruba and Curaçao.