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GECKOS

Hainan cave gecko

Goniurosaurus hainanensis

A small, dark tiger gecko from southern Hainan with pale yellow bands across the neck, body and tail and orange to reddish-brown eyes. It is nocturnal, sleeps in hiding by day and wants it damp and cool. It tolerates neither heat nor much handling, but is not difficult to keep when the climate is right.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Goniurosaurus lichtenfelderi hainanensis; Goniurosaurus sinensis; Goniurosaurus kwanghua* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-11 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**75 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**60-75 days** at 24-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	For a pair or a small group, 75 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height) is a reasonable minimum. A single animal or a pair can be kept in 45 × 45 × 30 cm, but more space gives more activity.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 22-26 °C by day and 18-22 °C at night. Most Danish living rooms manage that by themselves, and then heat lamps and heat mats are unnecessary. Heat is the species' weak point.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Figures for humidity range from 55 to 90 %, and a good starting point is a rhythm of damp nights and slightly drier days.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is nocturnal and does not bask, so UVB is not necessary. The most important thing is a fixed daily rhythm with light for 11-12 hours in summer, 8-10 hours in winter and darkness at night.
FEEDING	The species lives on insects. The staple diet can be crickets, dubia roaches and locusts, with mealworms for variety and an occasional waxworm. Waxworms are fatty and should be a treat, otherwise the animals become too fat.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is shy and more nervous than *Eublepharis macularius*. Some animals tolerate being picked up for a moment, but they may jump from the hand if startled, and handling stresses them.
NATIVE RANGE	China.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/goniurosaurus-hainanensis