herpy

GECKOS

Carrot-tail viper gecko

Hemidactylus imbricatus

Hemidactylus imbricatus is a small, striped desert gecko from southern Pakistan with a thick, carrot-shaped tail that serves as its fat store. It lives hidden in dry ground by day and hunts at night, needs only a small enclosure and can be kept together in pairs or small groups.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Teratolepis fasciata* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-25 °C**
Humidity	**40-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs, one male with several females or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-80 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	For a pair or one male with two females, an enclosure of 40 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height) is enough. The dimensions can also be turned round, so the enclosure is 30 cm long and 40 cm deep.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature in the enclosure is 25-30 °C. Figures range from 25-30 °C in summer to 24-29 °C with a warm spot of about 35 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Hemidactylus imbricatus* comes from a dry region and does best with relatively low humidity of around 40-50 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Hemidactylus imbricatus* is active at dusk and at night and needs no special lighting. UVB is not necessary. Instead, give the animals calcium with vitamin D3 through their food.
FEEDING	*Hemidactylus imbricatus* is an insectivore. Give adults live insects once or twice a week: medium-sized crickets, small dubia roaches, waxworms and the occasional house cricket.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Hemidactylus imbricatus* is quiet and calm and can in time become used to handling, but it is an animal to watch.
NATIVE RANGE	Pakistan.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/hemidactylus-imbricatus