herpy

GECKOS

Duvaucel's gecko

Hoplodactylus duvaucelii

Hoplodactylus duvaucelii is the largest living gecko in New Zealand: heavy, olive-grey and nocturnal. It can live for over 40 years, gives birth to one or two live young at a time and does not reach sexual maturity until about seven years of age. Today it lives only on predator-free islands, and it is a species for specialists, not for the hobby.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Platydactylus duvaucelii; Woodworthia duvaucelii; Naultinus duvaucelii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-32 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**45-120 g**
Lifespan	**40-50 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 120 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 5 adults
Temperature, day	**15-25 °C**
Basking spot	**25-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-16 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and nectar**
Kept	**One male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**72-84 months**
Litter size	**1-2 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**150-240 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is no ordinary hobby keeping of *Hoplodactylus duvaucelii*.
TEMPERATURE	The species is adapted to a temperate, oceanic climate and is active all year round. New Zealand lizards need an ambient temperature of 5-25 °C all year round, about 15-25 °C in summer and cooler in winter.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	For New Zealand lizards 60-70 % humidity is ideal, as long as the animals can seek out damper places.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The animals are nocturnal but bask hidden during the day. Nocturnal New Zealand geckos also need natural light with UVA and UVB: outdoor enclosures with mesh provide this from the sun, and young need light in a 12:12 rhythm.
FEEDING	Give live insects or insect larvae and a fruit purée with added vitamin and mineral supplements, twice a week in summer and once a week in winter.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Hoplodactylus duvaucelii* is calm and tolerant of its own kind and shows no signs of chronic stress in captivity.
NATIVE RANGE	New Zealand.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/hoplodactylus-duvaucelii