herpy

GECKOS

Beaded gecko

Lucasium damaeum

Lucasium damaeum is a small, fast ground gecko from the dry interior of Australia, reddish-brown on the back with chains of pale beads along a cream-coloured dorsal stripe. It is nocturnal, lives on the ground and manages with simple furnishings, but it is rare in enclosures outside Australia.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Diplodactylus damaeus; Ceramodactylus damaeus* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 25 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**40-75 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The care of *Lucasium damaeum* is hardly described in detail, so the advice here is based on experience with the ground-dwelling Australian *Diplodactylus* species, to which the species was formerly counted.
TEMPERATURE	No measured temperatures have been published for *Lucasium damaeum*, so the figures here are based on care advice for related ground-dwelling geckos. The enclosure should have a warm side and a cool side.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Lucasium damaeum* comes from dry regions and should not have high humidity. Ordinary room air with 30-50 % humidity is plenty.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Lucasium damaeum* is nocturnal and does not need any special lighting. Extra lighting is unnecessary for the ground-dwelling geckos of the *Diplodactylus* group.
FEEDING	*Lucasium damaeum* lives on small insects and spiders and is easy to feed. In captivity the ground-dwelling geckos of the group take crickets, roaches, termites, flies, maggots, moths and waxworms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Lucasium damaeum* is fast and shy and stays hidden by day. It is a species to watch, not to handle. If you must lift it, do so briefly and low over the floor, because it darts away quickly. Never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/lucasium-damaeum