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GECKOS

Turquoise dwarf gecko

Lygodactylus williamsi

A small, diurnal dwarf gecko in luminous turquoise blue, found only in a couple of forest reserves in Tanzania, where it lives on screw pines. Its beauty made it a sought-after terrarium gecko, and it is precisely the trade that has brought it to the brink of extinction. Today it is critically endangered and strictly protected.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Lygodactylus picturatus williamsi* Published 14 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**6-12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 22-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair can live in a tall enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure should be 24-27 °C with a basking spot of 32-35 °C under a halogen spot, so that the gecko can warm up and move away again.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-80 % by day and may reach almost 100 % right after the evening misting. Mist with a fine spray two or three times a day, and let the droplets evaporate and the surfaces dry a little before you mist again.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs UVB. Use a T5 tube of 5-6 % (Ferguson zone 2) together with an ordinary daylight tube or an LED lamp of about 6500 K.
FEEDING	The gecko is a small hunter that also loves nectar. Give very small insects such as fruit flies, bean beetles, springtails, newly hatched crickets and small roaches. The prey must be at most about 6 mm long.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Williams' dwarf gecko is lively and curious, but it is not an animal for handling. It is fast, and being grabbed stresses it.
NATIVE RANGE	Tanzania.