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GECKOS

McIlwraith Leaf-tailed Gecko

Orraya occultus

Orraya occultus is a nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko known only from a small area in the McIlwraith Range on the Cape York Peninsula in north-eastern Australia. It has an unusually long, thin neck and a spiny tail and is the only species in its genus. The species is hardly kept in enclosures, and little is known about its husbandry.

Family: Carphodactylidae English name: McIlwraith leaf-tailed gecko Former name: *Saltuarius occultus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

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

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 80 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-100%**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**90-110 days** at 21-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the husbandry of *Orraya occultus*, and the species is hardly kept.
TEMPERATURE	The habitat lies at 500-825 m altitude in a tropical climate, so the air is mild and does not vary much. Use 22-26 °C by day and 17-21 °C at night. The figures are an estimate based on the altitude and the relatives' requirements.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should fluctuate. Mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening so that humidity rises towards 100 %, and let it fall to about 60 % between mistings, so that bark and substrate can dry out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Orraya occultus* is nocturnal and lives hidden by day. UVB is not documented as necessary, and the relatives are kept without.
FEEDING	*Orraya occultus* eats arthropods. Crickets, cockroaches and other feeder insects suit when they are no longer than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Orraya occultus* is nocturnal and sits still on rocks and stones by day. It is shy and not suited to handling. Like other leaf-tailed geckos, it can lose its tail, which grows back in a shorter and different form.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/orraya-occultus