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GECKOS

Namib web-footed gecko

Pachydactylus rangei

An almost transparent, salmon-coloured desert gecko with enormous eyes and webbing between the toes, which it uses as a shovel in the loose dune sand of the Namib Desert. It is nocturnal and buries itself by day. It needs deep sand, dry air and cool nights, and is a species for the experienced keeper.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Palmatogecko rangei; Syndactylosaura schultzei* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**11-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**5-10 g**
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**56-75 days** at 30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Use a long, low enclosure, because it is the floor area that counts. A pair should have at least 60 × 40 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better.

TEMPERATURE
Provide a temperature gradient so that the animal can choose for itself. By day the background should be 24-28 °C, and about a third of the floor area is heated to 32-35 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The species lives in desert, but depends on the night fog and dew. Keep the air relatively dry and well ventilated, at about 30-50 % relative humidity. The range is an estimate based on its way of life.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is strongly nocturnal and lies buried by day, so UVB is not essential when the insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3. The species can be kept without special lighting.

FEEDING
The gecko is an insectivore and in the wild takes termites, ants, beetles, grasshoppers and spiders. It is greedy but not a skilled hunter, so the prey must be easy to catch.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The gecko is nervous, quick and fragile, and the skin is thin. It is an animal to watch. Handle it only when it has to be moved, and rather let it walk into a small container than grab it. Never grab the tail.

NATIVE RANGE
Namibia, Angola and South Africa.