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GECKOS

Grandidier's Madagascar ground gecko

Paroedura androyensis

Paroedura androyensis is the smallest species in the genus of Madagascan ground geckos: a small nocturnal hunter from the forest floor of southern Madagascar. It reaches only 6-8 cm, wags its tail eagerly when hunting and does well in a small enclosure. That makes it a good choice for beginners who want a small, active gecko.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phyllodactylus androyensis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-7 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**5-6 months**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 25-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The species is small, and an enclosure of 30 × 30 × 30 cm (length × width × height) is enough for a single animal or a pair. Recommendations vary from about 20 × 20 × 20 cm for one or two animals to 40 × 40 × 40 cm for a pair.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 24-28 °C, and at night it may fall to 21-24 °C, but not lower. Recommendations for the daytime temperature range from 24-27 °C to 26-31 °C, so 24-28 °C is a safe choice.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 50-70 %. Mist the enclosure lightly every day or every other day, so there are water droplets on leaves, glass and decoration for the animal to drink.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and does not need UVB, but a weak UVB light does not harm it. A weak light source on a timer, giving about a 12-hour day, ensures a fixed daily rhythm.

FEEDING

Paroedura androyensis lives on insects, and because of its size the prey must be small.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is calm and slow in daily life, but can run fast when startled or hunting. It is best suited to watching and is handled only rarely and carefully. Never grab the tail.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.