herpy

GECKOS

Blue-tailed day gecko

Phelsuma cepediana

Phelsuma cepediana is a medium-sized, light green day gecko from Mauritius, where the male has a bright blue back and tail with dark red spots and streaks. It requires a tall, warm and humid enclosure with UVB light and is so territorial that it is best kept alone or as a closely monitored pair.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phelsuma cepedianum* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-14 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**40-45 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single *Phelsuma cepediana* can be kept in a glass enclosure of 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	For *Phelsuma cepediana*, the temperature in the enclosure should be 24-27 °C by day, and a warm spot just under a spotlight at about 32 °C gives the animal the chance to warm up.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 60-70 % for *Phelsuma cepediana*, ideally with variation over the day, so plants and substrate can dry out a little.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Phelsuma cepediana* is diurnal and benefits from high-quality light.
FEEDING	*Phelsuma cepediana* eats both insects and fruit. In captivity it does well on a mixture of prepared diet for day geckos and live feeder insects.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Phelsuma cepediana* is territorial and can be aggressive, both towards its own species and towards other day geckos. Keep it alone or as a carefully matched pair. Never keep two males together.
NATIVE RANGE	Mauritius.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/phelsuma-cepediana