herpy

GECKOS

Madagascar giant day gecko

Phelsuma grandis

One of the largest day geckos in the world: a bright green, robust climber from northern Madagascar with red markings and a bold, inquisitive nature. It needs warmth, strong light and plenty of height, and suits a keeper with some experience who wants to watch their animal rather than handle it.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis* Published 14 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**23-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
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	**48-80 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	Day geckos are sun lovers and need a warm place to lie. By day there should be 26-30 °C in most of the enclosure and a basking spot of 32-35 °C on a branch just under the heat lamp.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 50-70 % and may well be highest at night. The species tolerates fluctuations, as long as conditions are neither constantly dry nor constantly wet.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs both strong light and UVB. Use a T5 tube of about 6 % in a reflector, so that the UV index at the basking spot is around 3-4, corresponding to Ferguson zone 3.
FEEDING	Day geckos eat both insects and sweet things such as nectar, ripe fruit and pollen. In the enclosure a mixture of live insects and prepared food for fruit-eating geckos, for example Pangea or Repashy, works very well.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is calm until it is frightened, and then it is very fast. Most animals never become truly hand-tame.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.

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