herpy

GECKOS

## Striped day gecko

# *Phelsuma lineata*

*Phelsuma lineata* is a small day gecko from Madagascar with a green body, a broad dark stripe along each side and red spots on the back and head. It climbs in plants and bamboo, feeds on insects, nectar and fruit purée, and needs warmth, UVB and high humidity. It is for anyone who wants to watch their animals rather than handle them.

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

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **10-15 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **8-15 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **30 × 30 × 45 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **25-29 °C** |
| Basking spot | **28-32 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-24 °C** |
| Humidity | **50-80%** |
| UVB | **Essential**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Diet | **Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet** |
| Kept | **Singly or in pairs** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **12-18 months** |
| Clutch size | **1-2 eggs** |
| Incubation | **40-90 days**<br>at 24-28 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**
A single adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better. A pair needs more space, so the enclosure must be enlarged so that the animals can get away from each other.

**TEMPERATURE**
By day the enclosure should be 25-29 °C. Under a heat source at the top of the enclosure there should be a basking spot of 28-32 °C, for example on a branch directly under a small white heat bulb.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**
The humidity should average 50-80 %, measured in the middle of the enclosure. It is natural for it to be lower in the heat and higher at the cooler end, and for it to rise at night and fall during the day.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**
The species is diurnal and needs strong light, a basking spot and UVB to be able to absorb calcium and show its best colours.

**FEEDING**
The species is omnivorous. In the wild it lives on insects, nectar and fruit juice.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**
The species is fast, delicate and nervous. It is better suited to being watched than to being picked up, and handling should be kept to a minimum. The animal can hang on the glass by a single toe, and the skin tears easily.

**NATIVE RANGE**
Madagascar.

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