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GECKOS

Rüppell's semaphore gecko

Pristurus flavipunctatus

A small, diurnal gecko from the countries around the southern Red Sea, with a tall, serrated tail and yellow spots. It grows to about 8 cm in total length including the tail, and almost nothing is known about its care.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Pristurus percristatus; Pristurus gasperetti* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-8 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**28-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**70-90 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Almost nothing is known about the care of *Pristurus flavipunctatus*. The advice is based on the climate in its range and on *Pristurus carteri*, the best-known species of the genus in captivity.

TEMPERATURE

Provide a gradient with 28-30 °C at the cool end and a basking spot of 40-45 °C under a spotlight. At night the temperature may fall to about 20-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The air must be dry, around 30-40 %. Provide a very shallow dish of fresh water, or put stones in the dish so the animal cannot drown, and mist the furnishings lightly once a week so the animals can drink droplets.

LIGHTING AND UVB

P. flavipunctatus is diurnal and needs strong daylight and UVB over the basking spot, for example a T5 tube. Ferguson zone 3 is an estimate for a diurnal desert gecko; the zone has not been measured for the species.

FEEDING

The species eats small arthropods. Offer springtails, fruit flies, small crickets and other small insects, no wider than the animal's head.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Pristurus flavipunctatus is fast and wary and is not suited to handling, and the tail can break off. The behaviour of the animals towards each other in captivity is not documented.

NATIVE RANGE

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.