herpy

GECKOS

Lesser rough-snouted gecko

Rhacodactylus trachycephalus

Rhacodactylus trachycephalus is a rare, nocturnal climber from the Isle of Pines and the small island of Môrô in New Caledonia, and it gives birth to live young. The species is critically endangered in the wild and rare in captivity. Its care resembles that of the other *Rhacodactylus* species, but the animals are expensive, grow slowly and have at most two young a year.

Family: Diplodactylidae Former name: *Chameleonurus trachycephalus; Rhacodactylus trachyrhynchus trachycephalus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-14 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**65-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and complete diet**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-60 months**
Litter size	**1-2 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**180 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The species thrives best in a vertical enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 90 cm (length × width × height). It holds one to four animals, and a larger enclosure is always an advantage.
TEMPERATURE	No precise temperatures have been measured for *Rhacodactylus trachycephalus* in the wild, so the figures are based on experience with the species in captivity and with related *Rhacodactylus* species.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be about 65-70 %. It can be maintained with a live plant, damp sphagnum in a hide and regular misting.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is entirely nocturnal and comes out only when it is dark. It has not been shown that UVB is necessary.
FEEDING	The diet consists of live insects and a dry pollen and nectar food for day geckos, which is available at all times. Give four adult crickets per adult animal once a week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is calm, and with regular handling the animals become tame and just as easy to pick up as *Correlophus ciliatus*. The animals are active at night, so handle them in the evening.
NATIVE RANGE	New Caledonia.