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GECKOS

Northern leaf-tailed gecko

Saltuarius cornutus

Saltuarius cornutus is a large, nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko from the rainforests of north-eastern Queensland in Australia. The skin resembles lichen-covered bark and is studded with pointed tubercles, the tail is broad and leaf-shaped, and the toes have claws instead of adhesive lamellae. It needs cool conditions and is a species for the experienced keeper.

Family: Carphodactylidae Former name: *Phyllurus cornutus; Gymnodactylus cornutus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 80 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-19 °C**
Humidity	**55-100%**
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**10-16 °C** 8-13 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-48 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
Incubation	**90-110 days** at 21-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is no documented recipe for *Saltuarius cornutus*, so the dimensions are borrowed from close relatives.
TEMPERATURE	The species comes from cooler mountain forest, and the close relatives are kept at moderate temperatures. *P. platurus* is kept at 22-26 °C by day and about 19-22 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should fluctuate. Mist the enclosure thoroughly in the evening, so that the humidity rises towards 100 %, and let it fall to about 55-60 % between mistings, so that bark and substrate can dry out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and lives hidden by day, and no UVB lighting is mentioned for the relatives. UVB is therefore not necessary for *Saltuarius cornutus*, but a weak light in the daytime with a fixed daily rhythm is natural.
FEEDING	The species feeds on large arthropods such as cockroaches, woodlice and spiders, and in vivaria ordinary feeder insects such as crickets and roaches work.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Saltuarius cornutus* is a calm, secretive and nocturnal species that sits still on bark during the day. It is not an animal to be handled, and it may be stressed by being picked up.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.