herpy

GECKOS

Reef gecko

Sphaerodactylus notatus

A small, ground-dwelling dwarf gecko from Cuba, the Bahamas and southernmost Florida, no more than 5-6 cm long including the tail. *Sphaerodactylus notatus* is brown with dark spots and stripes on the head, is active mostly in the morning and evening in the leaf litter, and can be kept in pairs in a small, tight enclosure.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Sphaerodactylus notatus amaurus; Sphaerodactylus notatus atactus; Sphaerodactylus notatus peltastes* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-6 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**20 × 20 × 20 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**6 months**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**70 days** at 26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Sphaerodactylus notatus*, but the species is easy to keep. It is looked after like the related *Sphaerodactylus elegans* and *Sphaerodactylus macrolepis*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 26-28 °C. A small fluorescent tube or a compact fluorescent bulb usually gives enough heat. A spotlight is not necessary and can easily overheat such a small enclosure.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be around 70 %, and the substrate should be slightly damp. Mist the enclosure once a day, so that droplets sit on leaves and glass for the animal to drink, and also put out a small, shallow water dish.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Keep the light on for 12 hours a day in summer, and use small fluorescent tubes or compact fluorescent bulbs in daylight colour. During the winter rest period the days should be shorter. The need for UVB is not documented.

FEEDING

The gecko feeds on small arthropods. Offer small crickets, small woodlice, springtails, small wax moths and wax moth larvae. Feeder insects must not be larger than the animal's head.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Keep one pair per enclosure. Not only the males but also the females can be very aggressive towards each other, so two animals of the same sex must not be housed together.

NATIVE RANGE

Cuba and Bahamas.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/sphaerodactylus-notatus