herpy

GECKOS

Anderson's short-fingered gecko

Stenodactylus petrii

A small, sand-coloured desert gecko with large eyes and a thin, whip-like tail, which runs and burrows on the sand dunes of North Africa and southern Israel. It is nocturnal and wants warmth, relatively dry air, a humid hide and a cool winter rest. It is rare in the trade.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Stenodactylus elimensis* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-11 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 20 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-80 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Floor area is more important than height, because the gecko lives on the ground. For a small group, 60 × 40 × 20 cm (length × width × height) is a reasonable minimum.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 24-29 °C by day with a small warm spot of 32-35 °C at one end, measured on the sand.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air may be relatively dry, around 40-60%. Spray part of the enclosure 1-2 times a week in the evening, so the animals can drink the droplets. Spraying just before they come out often gets them to eat.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is nocturnal and hides from the light by day, but it needs a fixed daily rhythm.
FEEDING	The species lives on small insects. The staple diet is crickets, and for variety you can give mini mealworms, small waxworms and flightless fruit flies.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	By day the gecko sits hidden, but at night it is active and curious. In small groups the animals chase each other, dig tunnels under stones and pieces of wood and come forward to the glass when something is going on in the room.
NATIVE RANGE	Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Sudan, Eritrea, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/stenodactylus-petrii