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GECKOS

## Northern spiny-tailed gecko

# *Strophurus ciliaris*

*Strophurus ciliaris* is a slender, delicate gecko from inland and northern Australia with long spines above the eyes, a spiny tail and a brightly coloured mouth. It climbs about in shrubs and spinifex, likes to bask and can squirt a foul-smelling fluid from the tail if threatened.

Family: Diplodactylidae  Former name: *Diplodactylus ciliaris*  Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **12-15 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **6-10 years** |
| Active | **By day, at dusk and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Semi-desert** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **30 × 30 × 45 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **25-29 °C** |
| Basking spot | **30-32 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **18-25 °C** |
| Humidity | **30-50%** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly, in pairs or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **12-24 months** |
| Clutch size | **1-2 eggs** |
| Clutches per year | **6-10** |
| Incubation | **55-65 days**<br>at 27-29 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | Height matters more than floor area, because *Strophurus ciliaris* is a climber. |
| TEMPERATURE | The enclosure for *Strophurus ciliaris* should have a warm zone at the top and a cooler zone at the bottom. Provide a warm spot of about 32 °C high up and 25-27 °C at the bottom in summer. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | *Strophurus ciliaris* needs low humidity. Concrete figures are not documented, but 30-50 % suits the species' dry habitats. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | *Strophurus ciliaris* is active at dusk and at night, but also basks by day. UV light is probably beneficial, even though animals have also lived long without it. UVB is therefore recommended. |
| FEEDING | *Strophurus ciliaris* lives on arthropods and is not fussy. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Strophurus ciliaris* is curious and bold at feeding and often comes forward to meet the insects, but it is easily stressed by handling and is not an animal to be picked up every day. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Australia. |