herpy

GECKOS

Golden-tailed gecko

Strophurus taenicauda

Strophurus taenicauda is a small, spotted gecko from the scrubland of Queensland, with a shiny golden stripe down the tail and red eyes. It climbs in branches, rests head down and smears a sticky, foul-smelling fluid on whatever grabs it. It suits the practised keeper who wants a species with plenty of personality.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-7 cm** snout-vent length
Weight	**5-8 g**
Lifespan	**4-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-60%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**4-6**
Incubation	**48-72 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair or a small group of *Strophurus taenicauda* can be kept in an enclosure of 45 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and a single animal can manage with less.

TEMPERATURE

Strophurus taenicauda likes to bask under a spotlight, just as it basks in the branches in the wild. The figures given vary somewhat, so the figures below are an average.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Strophurus taenicauda comes from dry to semi-arid country, and there is no documented figure for the humidity. The 30-60 % in the fact box is therefore an estimate based on the habitat and the misting routines described.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Strophurus taenicauda sleeps by day in the open on the branches and likes to bask, so there is good reason to give them UV light, even though a need has not been demonstrated in captivity.

FEEDING

In the wild *Strophurus taenicauda* lives on small arthropods, especially roaches, crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, moths and spiders. In the enclosure crickets, small roaches, moths, flies and waxworms work well.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Strophurus taenicauda is bold and curious and not as shy as many other species. It often sits in the open on a branch and is active at dusk and at night. It is not suited to handling, however.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.