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GECKOS

Ringed wall gecko

Tarentola annularis

A large, robust gecko from the arid regions of North Africa and the Sahel, with dark-edged white spots on the shoulders and a tail with distinct rings. It is nocturnal, climbs on rocks and house walls and grows to about 20 cm in length. Some of the care advice is based on the close relative *Tarentola mauritanica*.

Family: Phyllodactylidae Former name: *Gecko annularis* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 70 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-20 °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**
Clutches per year	**2-8**
Incubation	**59-62 days** at 30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair needs a tall enclosure of at least 100 × 50 × 70 cm (length × width × height). The species is large and very active, so more space is always an advantage. Height is important because the gecko climbs.

TEMPERATURE
The figures here are borrowed from *Tarentola mauritanica*. During the day the enclosure should be 25-30 °C with a warm spot of 30-35 °C under a lamp, so the animal can choose how warm it wants to be.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Keep the enclosure dry with a humidity of 40-60 %. The species lives in drier regions than *Tarentola mauritanica*, which is kept at 50-60 %, so the lower part of the range is fine, also for breeding animals.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is nocturnal and can live without UVB when it gets calcium and vitamin D3 through its food. How much UV it gets in the wild is not known, so UVB is optional.

FEEDING
In the wild the species lives on arthropods and occasionally small lizards. In captivity insects are enough: crickets, locusts, cockroaches and occasionally waxworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The gecko is robust and pugnacious and not an animal for handling. It readily bites if grabbed, and squeaks when it feels threatened. Never grab the tail, and give new animals a couple of weeks in peace to settle in.

NATIVE RANGE
Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Uganda.