herpy

GECKOS

Turpan wonder gecko

Teratoscincus roborowskii

An orange desert gecko with large frog-like eyes from the Turpan Depression in north-western China. It is nocturnal, digs its own burrows in the sand and has large, roof-tile-like scales that rattle when it waves its tail. It is hardy when conditions are right, but needs to be kept dry and given a cool winter rest.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Teratoscincus toksunicus* Published 14 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-9 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**8-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-20 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
Incubation	**70-110 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair needs an enclosure of at least 90 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height). A single animal can manage in 60 × 40 × 40 cm, but bigger is always better, because the gecko is active and walks around a great deal at night.
TEMPERATURE	The gecko needs a clear temperature gradient with 26-30 °C by day and a hot spot of 32-35 °C under a heat lamp or above a heat mat. At night the temperature may fall to 17-20 °C or ordinary room temperature.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from one of the driest parts of China and should be kept dry, at 20-40 % humidity. Do not mist the whole enclosure.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does well without UVB as long as the food is dusted with vitamin D3.
FEEDING	In the enclosure the gecko feeds on insects. Offer a varied diet of live food: crickets, locusts, dubia roaches and the occasional mealworm. Waxworms are treats and should make up only a small part of the diet.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The gecko is shy and nervous and lies hidden in its burrow by day. Many animals never become truly tame, and handling stresses them and can make them shed the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	China.