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GECKOS

Natterer's gecko

Tropiocolotes nattereri

One of the smallest geckos in the world, only 4-6 cm including the tail, from the coasts around the Gulf of Aqaba on the Sinai and in the far south of Israel and Jordan. It is nocturnal and lives on stony ground. Little is known about its care, but it is kept like the better-known species of the genus in an enclosure of at least 20 × 20 × 20 cm.

Family: Gekkonidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-6 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**20 × 20 × 20 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs, one male with several females or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 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	Little is known about the care of *Tropiocolotes nattereri*.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 26-30 °C by day and a small hot spot of 35-45 °C at one end, measured on a flat stone under the lamp.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air must be dry, about 30-50 % and not above 60 %. Mist part of the enclosure two to three times a week in the evening or early in the morning: the animals lick the droplets from stones and hides, as they lick dew in the wild.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Tropiocolotes nattereri* is nocturnal, but the species of the genus gladly use the hot spot, and a fixed daily rhythm is important.
FEEDING	*Tropiocolotes nattereri* lives on very small arthropods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The behaviour of *Tropiocolotes nattereri* in captivity has not been described. The kept species of the genus are small but very active, hunt eagerly in the evening and are peaceful towards each other.
NATIVE RANGE	Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.