herpy

GECKOS

## Thick-tailed gecko

# *Underwoodisaurus milii*

A small, broad-headed gecko from southern Australia with a thick, carrot-shaped tail and a defence you will not forget: when threatened it rises high on its legs, opens its mouth wide and barks. It lives on the ground, takes ordinary feeder insects and is a good choice for anyone who wants to try a nocturnal terrestrial gecko.

Family: Carphodactylidae  Former name: *Phyllurus milii; Gymnodactylus milii; Nephrurus milii*  Published 14 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **8-10 cm** snout-vent length |
| Weight | **14-25 g** |
| Lifespan | **10-15 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Rock-dwelling and terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Semi-desert and rocky terrain** |
| Difficulty | **Beginner** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **60 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **22-26 °C** |
| Basking spot | **28-32 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **15-20 °C** |
| Humidity | **30-50%** |
| UVB | **Optional** Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

| | |
|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **1-2 eggs** |
| Clutches per year | **5-9** |
| Incubation | **58-65 days** at 27-29 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**
An adult can be kept in a low enclosure of at least 60 × 40 × 30 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is always better.

**TEMPERATURE**
The species needs a clear temperature difference between the two ends. Keep the cool end at 22-26 °C and the warmest spot at the floor at 28-32 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 15-20 °C.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**
The species comes from dry regions and thrives at a humidity of 30-50 %. The enclosure should be neither constantly damp nor completely bone dry.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**
The species is nocturnal and manages without UVB as long as the animal gets calcium with vitamin D3 through the food.

**FEEDING**
The gecko feeds exclusively on insects and other small arthropods. Offer a varied mix of crickets, locusts, dubia roaches and black soldier fly larvae, and occasionally mealworms or superworms.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**
Many young animals are suspicious and bark, lunge forward and try to bite, but this is mostly bluff, and most calm down. Adults often become trusting and tolerate calm handling.

**NATIVE RANGE**
Australia.