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GECKOS

## Spearpoint leaf-tailed gecko

# *Uroplatus ebenaui*

*Uroplatus ebenaui* is the smallest of the leaf-tailed geckos, only 9-10 cm long including the tail. With its short, pointed tail, the small horns above the eyes and the black mouth lining, it resembles a withered leaf. It lives on Nosy Be and in northern Madagascar and requires cool, humid and stable care.

Family: Gekkonidae  Former name: *Uroplates ebenaui*  Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **9-10 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **5-10 years** |
| Active | **At dusk and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Dry forest and rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **45 × 45 × 45 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **22-28 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **16-20 °C** |
| Humidity | **60-100%** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Insects and worms/snails** |
| Kept | **Singly or in pairs** |

### BREEDING

| | |
|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **2 eggs** |
| Incubation | **90-120 days**<br>at 20-25 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

| | |
|---|---|
| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| EU annex | **Annex B** |
| IUCN | **Vulnerable (VU)** |

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**

One adult can be kept in an enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height), preferably with a front opening.

**TEMPERATURE**

*Uroplatus ebenaui* does not tolerate heat. For the species 24-28 °C is given for the day, while 22-26 °C is recommended for the genus as a whole. Keep to the cooler end, and never let the enclosure rise above 28 °C.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**

Humidity should be between 60 and 100%. A good rhythm is about 60% by day and 80% or more at night, and it can help to let the enclosure dry out to 60-70% in the afternoon and mist heavily to 85-90% in the evening.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**

Whether animals that are active at night need UVB has been debated, but UVB is now recommended for the genus, because in the wild the animals rest openly by day and receive a little sun.

**FEEDING**

*Uroplatus ebenaui* eats insects, and meat or plant matter is refused or makes the animal ill. Give crickets, dubia roaches and other small roaches, grasshoppers and occasionally caterpillars.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**

*Uroplatus ebenaui* is a display animal and not one you pick up. The animals stress easily, so handling should be limited to what is strictly necessary and at most once a week.

**NATIVE RANGE**

Madagascar.