herpy

GECKOS

## Henkel's leaf-tailed gecko

# *Uroplatus henkeli*

One of the largest leaf-tailed geckos, from the forests of north-western Madagascar. By day it lies flat and almost invisible on a tree trunk, and at night it hunts in the branches. It is calm towards conspecifics and can be bred, but it tolerates neither heat nor drought and belongs with an experienced keeper.

Family: Gekkonidae  Published 14 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **20-30 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Weight | **50-80 g** |
| Lifespan | **7-11 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Dry forest and rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **12-18 months** |
| Clutch size | **1-2 eggs** |
| Clutches per year | **1-5** |
| Incubation | **100-230 days**<br>at 18-26 °C |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **60 × 60 × 100 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **22-26 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **17-21 °C** |
| Humidity | **60-100%** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly, in pairs or in groups** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | A pair needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 100 cm (length × width × height), and a group of three to five animals fits in 90 × 90 × 120 cm. |
| TEMPERATURE | By day it should be 22-26 °C, and at night the temperature should fall to 17-21 °C. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | Humidity should be high: from about 60 % during the day and up towards 100 % right after misting. Mist once or twice a day, so that droplets form on leaves and glass, which the animals drink. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is nocturnal and has long been kept without UVB, and there is still disagreement about how necessary it is. It is a good idea to offer it, because in the wild the animals receive diffuse UV light through the canopy. |
| FEEDING | *Uroplatus henkeli* feeds on insects and other small animals. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | By day the gecko sits perfectly still and camouflaged on a trunk or on the glass. It is an animal to watch, not to handle. Touch stresses it, and it may shed its tail, which regrows and looks like the old one. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Madagascar. |

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/uroplatus-henkeli