herpy

CHAMELEONS

## Canopy Chameleon

# *Furcifer willsii*

*Furcifer willsii* is a small, green chameleon from the humid montane forests of central eastern Madagascar. The male carries two parallel, upturned nose projections, which the female lacks. The species is sensitive, needs cool, humid air, shade and plenty of water, and is only rarely kept.

Family: Chamaeleonidae  Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **15-17 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **2-3 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and montane forest** |
| Difficulty | **Expert** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **45 × 45 × 90 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **20-25 °C** |
| Basking spot | **26-28 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **12-18 °C** |
| Humidity | **65-100%** |
| Water | **No water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly** |

### BREEDING

| | |
|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **6-23 eggs** |
| Incubation | **150-400 days**<br>at 20-25 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

| | |
|---|---|
| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| EU annex | **Annex B** |
| IUCN | **Least Concern (LC)** |

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**

Little is known about the care of *Furcifer willsii*. The climate in the species' range is cool and humid: days of 23-27 °C, nights of 10-20 °C and rain most of the year.

**TEMPERATURE**

The species comes from cool montane forests and tolerates heat poorly. The daytime temperature should be 20-25 °C and must not go much above 28 °C.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**

Humidity should be high all year: about 65-80 % by day and 90-100 % at night. The species drinks droplets from leaves and branches, not from a bowl.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**

The species is diurnal, but lives in dense forest with shade and partial shade. Provide 12 hours of light a day with a T5 tube over the whole length of the enclosure. UVB is recommended.

**FEEDING**

*Furcifer willsii* is an insectivore. Offer small, varied insects: small crickets, small cockroaches, fruit flies and moths. Flying insects are a good supplement. Young animals are fed every day, adults every other day.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**

The species is shy, sensitive and nervous. It should not be handled and readily bites at a finger. Keep the animal alone, and arrange the enclosures so that males cannot see one another.

**NATIVE RANGE**

Madagascar.