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CHAMELEONS

## Spectral Pygmy Chameleon

# *Rhampholeon spectrum*

*Rhampholeon spectrum* is a small, leaf-like chameleon of 7-10 cm from the forest floor of West and Central Africa. It is greenish brown to grey like a dead leaf, with two slanting dark stripes on the sides and a small, soft flap of skin on the snout. It is kept in a small, humid, densely planted enclosure with a thick layer of leaf litter. Its care is little known, so the figures are based on close relatives.

Family: Chamaeleonidae  Former name: *Brookesia spectrum; Chamaeleo spectrum; Rhampholeon affinis*  Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **7-10 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **2-4 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal and terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and montane forest** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **40 × 30 × 40 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **20-25 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **16-20 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-95%** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)** |
| Kept | **Singly** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **3-9 months** |
| Clutch size | **2-5 eggs** |
| Incubation | **150-210 days**<br>at 18-23 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | Little is known about the care of *Rhampholeon spectrum*. |
| TEMPERATURE | The daytime temperature must be 20-25 °C and the night temperature 16-20 °C. The drop at night comes by itself when the lamps are switched off. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | The humidity should be 70-95 % by day and 80-95 % at night. Mist the enclosure thoroughly at least twice a day, in the morning and again in the evening, with lukewarm water. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is diurnal and lives in shade, so the light must resemble the forest's subdued light. |
| FEEDING | The species eats small insects and other arthropods: fruit flies, small crickets, bean beetles, grain weevils, small cockroaches and springtails for the youngest. Prey may be at most about 20 % of the animal's body length. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The species is kept singly. Aggression between conspecifics is low, but two animals together easily stress the subordinate one, so they are put together only for mating. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Cameroon, Congo - Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Gabon and Nigeria. |