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CHAMELEONS

Usambara Three-Horned Chameleon

Trioceros deremensis

Trioceros deremensis is a large, sturdily built chameleon from the mountain forests of eastern Tanzania. The male bears three long, ringed horns, while the female has none at all. The species is calm towards its keeper, but needs cool temperatures and very high humidity, and breeding is demanding, so it is only for very experienced keepers.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo deremensis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-40 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**120-150 g**
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-20 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-12 months**
Clutch size	**8-60 eggs**
Incubation	**110-130 days** at 22 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs a mesh terrarium of at least 60 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height). The size is an estimate: it is set slightly larger than for *Trioceros quadricornis*, because *T. deremensis* is larger and heavier.

TEMPERATURE

The species is a mountain species and prefers moderate to cool temperatures. The daytime temperature should be 20-24 °C and the night temperature 18-20 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should be at least 80 % and preferably higher. The species does best with an ultrasonic fogger aimed directly at the terrarium and a steady flow of dripping water, preferably directly over the animal.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs plenty of light. Use UVB fluorescent tubes and a weak heat lamp. The UVB zone has not been measured for the species.

FEEDING

Trioceros deremensis is insectivorous and usually has a large appetite. Offer varied food such as crickets, flies, grasshoppers and other feeder insects of suitable size.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is kept singly and is calm towards its keeper, but aggressive towards its own kind. It is sedentary, likes to choose one spot where it sits for a long time, and moves mostly to bask or eat.

NATIVE RANGE

Tanzania.