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CHAMELEONS

Von Hoehnel's Chameleon

Trioceros hoehnelii

Trioceros hoehnelii is a small, live-bearing chameleon from the cool highlands of Kenya and Uganda, where nights can approach freezing. The male has a tall casque and a single horn on the snout. The species is robust against cold, but tolerates heat badly, so it needs a cool terrarium with a clear drop in temperature at night and high night-time humidity.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo hoehnelii; Chamaeleo bergeri; Chamaeleo leikipiensis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**15-70 g**
Lifespan	**5-6 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-22 °C**
Basking spot	**24-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-14 °C**
Humidity	**50-100%**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Litter size	**4-22 young**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Gestation	**120-180 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs a terrarium of at least 60 × 45 × 90 cm (length × width × height). The size is borrowed from similar small mountain chameleons of the genus *Trioceros* and is a minimum.

TEMPERATURE
The species comes from cool highlands and tolerates heat badly. The daytime temperature in the terrarium should be 20-22 °C, and the basking spot must not be warmer than 24-25 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Night is the species' humid time. The humidity should rise towards 100 % at night, with mist from an ultrasonic fogger for about three hours late at night and early in the morning.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal and uses a lot of light. Give 12 hours of light a day all year. A T5 HO tube of 6500 K or a powerful LED lamp across the width of the terrarium provides the general light. UVB is necessary.

FEEDING
T. hoehnelii is insectivorous and takes most insects of suitable size. Offer crickets, small grasshoppers, flies, cockroach nymphs and other small insects, and keep the prey to no more than the distance between the animal's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is kept singly. Males are very aggressive towards each other and towards similar species: they hiss, puff themselves up and turn black, so males must not be able to see each other.

NATIVE RANGE
Kenya and Uganda.