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CHAMELEONS

Four-horned Chameleon

Trioceros quadricornis

Trioceros quadricornis is a medium-sized chameleon from the cool mountain forests of Cameroon and south-eastern Nigeria. The male carries several horns on the snout and a tall sail-like crest on the back. The species is shy, tolerates heat and dryness poorly, and many animals in the trade are wild-caught, so it is for the experienced keeper.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo quadricornis; Chamaeleo eisentrauti; Trioceros eisentrauti* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-37 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**3-7 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-18 °C**
Humidity	**50-100%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**6 months**
Clutch size	**8-15 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
Incubation	**120-150 days** at 20-23 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs a mesh enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 90 cm (length × width × height), and preferably up to 120 cm high. Bigger is always better.

TEMPERATURE
The species is a cool-loving mountain species. The daytime temperature should be 20-25 °C, and 22-25 °C is ideal. At night the temperature should drop by about 5 °C to 13-18 °C, and it must not be held up with lamps or heat mats.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should be at least 50 % and preferably 70 % or more by day and rise towards 100 % at night. If humidity is persistently low, the animal dries out and develops kidney and respiratory diseases.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal. UVB fluorescent tubes are the best main light, and a small incandescent bulb is enough as a basking spot. Natural sunlight without glass is a great advantage, as ordinary window glass filters out UVB.

FEEDING
Trioceros quadricornis is insectivorous. Offer as varied a diet as possible: small moths, flies, snails, woodlice, crickets and superworms. Moths, flies and snails are seldom refused. Fatty waxworms are given only sparingly.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is kept singly. Housing animals together causes stress, and females can die of respiratory infection or stop eating. The species is shy and withdraws, and it is handled as little as possible.

NATIVE RANGE
Cameroon and Nigeria.