herpy

GEKKO'S

Rüppell's semaphore gecko

Pristurus flavipunctatus

A small, diurnal gecko from the countries around the southern Red Sea, with a tall, serrated tail and yellow spots. It grows to about 8 cm in total length including the tail, and almost nothing is known about its care.

Familie: Sphaerodactylidae Vroegere naam: *Pristurus percristatus; Pristurus gasperetti*

KERNGEGEVENS

HET DIER

Volwassen grootte	**7-8 cm** totale lengte incl. staart
Levensduur	**5-8 jaar**
Actief	**Overdag**
Levenswijze	**Rotsbewonend**
Leefgebied	**Halfwoestijn en rotsachtig terrein**
Moeilijkheidsgraad	**Gevorderd**

VERZORGING

Min. terrarium	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × B × H voor 1 volwassen dier
Temperatuur overdag	**28-30 °C**
Zonneplek	**40-45 °C**
Temperatuur 's nachts	**20-22 °C**
Luchtvochtigheid	**30-40%**
Water	**Waterbak**
UVB	**Onmisbaar** Fergusonzone 3
Voeding	**Insecten en kleine ongewervelden (springstaarten, fruitvliegen)**
Gehouden	**Solitair of in paren**

KWEEK

Voortplanting	**Eierleggend**
Legselgrootte	**1 eieren**
Incubatie	**70-90 dagen** bij 28 °C

BESCHERMING EN PAPIEREN

CITES	**Niet opgenomen**
EU-bijlage	**Niet opgenomen**
IUCN	**Niet bedreigd (LC)**

Over de soort

Pristurus flavipunctatus is a small gecko with a slender body, long, thin legs and a tail that is longer than the head and body, strongly compressed from the sides and with a serrated keel along the upper and lower side. In males the upper keel forms a true crest. The upper side is light greyish brown with more or less distinct darker cross-bands and a dark stripe through the eye. The total length is about 8 cm including the tail; the figure is based on a single measured animal.

The species was described by Eduard Rüppell in 1835 from the coast at Massawa in Eritrea and is the type species of the genus *Pristurus*. The genus name comes from Greek *pristos*, sawn, and *oura*, tail, and the species name from Latin *flavus*, yellow, after the yellow spots. The species split from the species complex around *Pristurus rupestris* about 21 million years ago. *P. percristatus* and *P. gasperetti* are now synonyms.

The species of the genus are diurnal and signal with the tail and body posture.

Verspreiding en leefgebied

Pristurus flavipunctatus lives on both sides of the southern Red Sea. On the African side it is known from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan (the Neberet Valley) and the Red Sea coast of Egypt, and on the Arabian side from western Saudi Arabia, including the Farasan Islands. The type locality is Massawa in Eritrea. Records from Jordan are uncertain: animals from southern Jordan were formerly assigned to *P. flavipunctatus* but are now placed in *Pristurus guweirensis*. They are not included on the map.

The species has a large range and is assessed as not threatened.

> **Natuurlijk verspreidingsgebied:** Eritrea, Ethiopië, Djibouti, Somalië, Soedan, Zuid-Soedan, Egypte en Saoedi-Arabië.

LEEFGEBIED

Pristurus flavipunctatus lives in the hot, dry lowlands and low mountains around the Red Sea and has been found up to at least 460 m above sea level. Little rain falls, and daytime temperatures are high for most of the year. The habitat is only sparsely described; the species of the genus live on the ground, on stones and rock faces or in trees and bushes, and the animals stay close to cover. Temperature and humidity in the habitat have not been measured for the species.

Verzorging

HET TERRARIUM

Almost nothing is known about the care of *Pristurus flavipunctatus*. The care advice is based on the climate of its range and on *Pristurus carteri*, the best-known species of the genus in captivity. The figures for temperature, lifespan and incubation are borrowed from *P. carteri*.

An adult needs an enclosure of at least 40 × 30 × 30 cm. Furnish it with flat stones, slate and roots, so that crevices and basking spots at several heights are created, and put down a base layer of fine sand mixed with soil. Stones must lie stably and preferably be glued. The enclosure needs good ventilation and a tight-fitting lid, because the animal is small and fast.

TEMPERATUUR

Create a gradient with 28-30 °C at the cool end and a basking spot of 40-45 °C under a spotlight. At night the temperature may fall to 20-22 °C. Use thermometers at both ends and an infrared thermometer for the basking spot, and control the heat with a thermostat. If the animal keeps seeking shade, the basking spot is too hot.

LUCHTVOCHTIGHEID EN WATER

The air must be dry, about 30-40 %. Offer a very shallow dish of fresh water, or put stones in the dish so the animal cannot drown, and mist the enclosure lightly once a week so the animals can drink droplets.

VERLICHTING EN UVB

P. flavipunctatus is diurnal and needs strong daylight and UVB over the basking spot, e.g. a T5 tube. Ferguson zone 3 is an estimate for a diurnal desert gecko. Keep the light on for 12 hours a day in summer and 9-10 hours in winter, and replace the UVB tube according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Lees meer: Licht en UVB

VOEDING

The species eats small arthropods. Offer springtails, fruit flies, small crickets and other small insects, no wider than the animal's head. Feed adults every second or third day and juveniles daily, and remove leftovers after 15-20 minutes. Dust the food with calcium and vitamins at every second feed. The natural diet has not been studied.

Lees meer: Calcium, vitaminen en supplementen

GEDRAG EN OMGANG

Pristurus flavipunctatus is fast and wary and is not suited to handling, and the tail can break off. The behaviour of the animals towards each other in captivity is not documented. Keep them singly or as a pair in a spacious enclosure with many hides, and never keep two males together.

Kweek

GESLACHTSRIJPHEID EN GESLACHTSONDERSCHEID

Age and size at sexual maturity are not documented for *P. flavipunctatus*. Wait with breeding until the animals are fully grown and the female is in good condition.

PARING

Mating in captivity has not been described for *P. flavipunctatus*. Males of the genus signal with the tail and with push-ups, but what role the signals play in mating has not been studied. Watch the first contact, and separate the animals if the male chases the female persistently.

EILEG EN LEGSELS

How many eggs the female lays, and how often, is not documented for the species; in the other species of the genus one hard-shelled egg is laid at a time. The female can store sperm, so she can lay fertilised eggs long after a mating. Provide a small lay box with damp sand, and make sure she gets plenty of calcium.

INCUBATIE

At 28 °C the eggs hatch after about 70-90 days; the figures are borrowed from *P. carteri*. Move the eggs carefully, without turning them, to slightly damp vermiculite, and keep the temperature steady.

OPFOK VAN DE JONGEN

Rearing of the young is not documented. The young are very small and need the tiniest feeder insects, such as fruit flies and newly hatched crickets, as well as calcium and UVB.

Gezondheid en veelgemaakte fouten

No diseases specific to *Pristurus flavipunctatus* in captivity have been documented. The typical mistakes for small, diurnal desert geckos are:

- Too little UVB and calcium, which can cause soft bones and tremors.
- Humidity that is too high and poor ventilation.
- Overheating under a lamp that is too strong, with no cool area.
- Lost tail through stress or restraint.

A healthy animal is quick and alert with clear eyes. See a vet with reptile experience if the animal loses weight or lies limp.

Vraag altijd raad aan iemand die er verstand van heeft

Deze gids is een goed beginpunt, maar kan ervaring niet vervangen. Dieren verschillen, en veel van wat er echt toe doet, leer je van mensen die de soort al jaren houden. Praat met een kweker, een ervaren houder of een dierenarts die reptielen en amfibieën kent voordat je het dier haalt - en opnieuw als er iets niet pluis lijkt.