



Care Sheet Gargoyle Gecko - Rhacodactylus Auriculatus

Named Gargoyle for the bony protuberances on the top of the head that develop as they mature. From the southern portion of New Caledonia. Life span with good care is 15-20 years. New Caledonia is a sub tropical island with a mild climate.

Unlike the crested gecko, the gargoyle can regenerate its tail. It will not be exactly the same (missing the rubbery tip) but nearly identical, cartilage instead of bone.

Housing: Hatchlings can be kept in shoebox sized enclosures while they are small to aid them in finding food & water. An adult gecko can be housed in 12*12*18 or larger. Larger is always recommended over smaller. It may seem as though your gecko never moves but they are nocturnal & will move about their enclosure at night looking for food and exploring. They may pick a favorite secure sleeping spot which is why they never seem to move. Their feet are not as “sticky” as a crested gecko, they can not grip the glass or other slick surfaces as easily but they are excellent climbers. Gargoyle geckos should be housed singularly, they are not communal.

Housing exceptions can be made for breeding purposes, a breeding pair or trio (2 females/ 1male). Care should be taken with slow introductions to avoid any aggression. This species can be territorial. Always monitor for aggression/bullying/injury between your pairs & have the option to remove one to another enclosure. Always monitor your breeding pairs and provide an off season for your females.

Baby gargoyles will be cannibalistic and can not be housed together. Male geckos should never be housed together as they will fight and injure each other or worse. Adult gargoyles do not have parental instincts, small things are food.

Temperatures: Gargoyles can be housed without supplemental heat in most living situations. Their ideal temperatures are 72-78. Extended temps of over 85 degrees can be harmful. Adjustments should be made to their care to make sure their housing falls into their ideal range. The average annual max temperature in New Caledonia is 78.8° Fahrenheit (26.0° Celsius) and average minimal temperature in New Caledonia 68° Fahrenheit (20.0° Celsius) hitting 65°F at times during the three coldest months. Humidity around 60-70% year round.

Food: Gargoyles eat meal replacement very well. Crickets & Dubia roaches can be provided as a supplement (will aid faster growth) but are not necessary. Pangea & Repashy make excellent diets that include grubs and other bugs. We use those two brands here. Make sure to choose at least one variety with insect protein and not fruit only. Some of our gargoyles refuse insects altogether. Hatchlings should always have food available. Juveniles & adults can be offered food every couple of days. Make sure your gargoyle babies are well started on meal replacement before offering bugs.

Water: Always provide a clean water dish in the enclosure. While misting the enclosure can provide them with fresh water droplets & aid in maintaining humidity, these geckos will drink from standing water.