

Care Sheet **Chameleon Gecko** - Eurydactylodes is a small genus of gecko comprised of 4 subspecies: Agricolae, Vieillardi, Occidentalis, & Symmetricus. Commonly referred to as Chameleon Geckos. They have a conservation status of near threatened or critically endangered in New Caledonia. There are slight size differences of a few millimeters between them but their care is generally the same. They have not been in the pet trade long enough to have a clear life span but a general estimate is 15 to 20 years. New Caledonia is a sub tropical island with a mild climate.

The Vieillardi was first described in 1869. The others followed, the Symetricus in 1908, the Agricolae in 2001 and the Occidentalis in 2009. All 4 average about 55mm or 2 inches not including their tail which can be just as long as their body.

Housing: An adult Chameleon gecko can be housed in 12x12x18. A pair or trio would need a larger space. Males can not share the same space with other males as they will fight over territory. Female Chameleon geckos are larger than the males. They seem to be a little more likely to be active during the day time than other geckos. They are arboreal and spend very little time on the ground. They are found in scrub forests and shrubby areas, tending to perch on fine branches. They do very well in bioactive terrarium setups.

Female Chameleon geckos will not bury their eggs, they will nose under the leaf litter and deposit their eggs on the dirt. So maintaining proper leaf litter and humidity in a bioactive terrarium is essential if you are planning to breed.

Temperatures: Geckos 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 60-75% year round.** Enclosures should be misted regularly. They seem to appreciate a basking spot that is a little warmer than the rest of the space. That can be accomplished in a planted terrarium by having a plant light or a shade dweller usb lamp at the top of the enclosure (80-83°F).

Food: Chameleon geckos do very well on fruit blended meal replacement (Pangea or Repashy or other comparable brands). Hatchlings need tiny insects in addition to meal replacement such as fruit flies and pinhead crickets When choosing your staple meal replacement make sure to choose at least one variety with insect protein and not fruit only. Hatchlings should always have food available. Juveniles & adults can be offered food every couple of days. Growth and Breeding formulas are not recommended as this species of gecko tends to store calcium very well and it can cause their calcium sacs to become oversized.

Water: Always provide a clean water dish in the enclosure. Misting the enclosure can provide them with fresh water droplets & aid in maintaining humidity, it is not a substitute for an established water source. Make sure the water bowl is not too deep and they can climb out.

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