

New Caledonian Grande Terre Giant Gecko

Rhacodactylus leachianus

Family: Geckonidae

Locale: New Caledonia

Average Size: SVL: 10-13 ins. Total: around 15-

Average Lifespan: 30+ years

Activity: Nocturnal

Habitat: Arboreal; forest and scrub

Captive Care: Tank or screen enclosure at least 20"high, or 2 foot glass cube with screen lid, or 24in tall screen chameleon cage or 55gal aquarium as tall as possible, with a screen lid for maximum circulation.

Plants with thick trunks for climbing; both angled and horizontal branches (at least as thick as the gecko is wide) for climbing and basking (do not clutter tank with too many); cork bark tubes to mimic tree hollows (one for each member of pair); clean water available at all times in shallow dish; mist daily. A heating pad or a low-wattage light on the outside of the cage can provide warmth.

Diet: Omnivorous- fruits (baby food): apples, peaches, pears, apricots, etc. insects- crickets, mealworms, flies. Requires Calcium/D3 supplementation, dust crickets and/ or add to baby food

Temperature: Thrive in temperatures ranging from 70-85° F, but never more than 85°

Lighting: If the terrarium is located near a window, natural light could be sufficient, but never place tank in direct sun.

Temperament: Known to be quite tame if handled regularly.

Notes: Lost tail will regenerate: Keep in pairs not mating groups: never house 2 males in same enclosure; May show TDS (but not critically tested).

References:

DeVosjoli, Phillippe, Fast, Frrank, and Repashy, Allen. (2003) *Rhacodactylus: The complete guide to their selection and care.* Advanced Visions, Inc. Vista, CA.pp145-239.

Henkel, Friedrich-Wilhelm and Schmidt, Wolfgang. 1995 *Geckos, Biology, Husbandry, and Reproduction.* Kreiger Publishing company, Malabar, Florida. 237pp.

Seipp, R. & Henkel, F. (2000). *Rhacodactylus, Biology, Natural History & Husbandry.* Chimaira Buchhandelsgesellschaft mbH. Frankfurt am Main 173 pp.

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