

Gargoyle gecko

(*Rhacodactylus auriculatus*)



Adult Size	SVL 4 – 4.5" Overall length 8 inches
Lifespan	15-20 years
Male/Female Difference	Male gargoyle geckos will develop a very noticeable hemipenal bulge just below the vent. The hemipenal bulge develops on males at between 5 months and 9 months old.
Compatibility	Males should never be housed together. If housing multiple geckos in the same cage make sure to provide 10 gallons per 1 gecko, with plenty of hiding spaces. This will ensure there will be no territorial fighting.
Origin	New Caledonia (Island grouping between Fiji and Australia.)
Climate	Humid and tropical jungles, but adapts to household environments well.
Day Cycle	Nocturnal, working the night shift when their food is available.
Temperature	78-82 degrees is fine, cooling down to 70 degrees at night. Use mild heat sources such as a low watt reptile heat mat or ceramic bulb.
Lighting	Even though gargoyle geckos are nocturnal, use a high quality UVA light to stimulate appetite and for emotional health.
Humidity	Relative humidity should be kept at %50-%70. Keep humid with frequent misting and a shallow water bowl.
Habitat/Territory	Gargoyle geckos are arboreal with special feet that allow them to climb even the smoothest glass.
Substrate/Bedding	Coconut fiber, or vermiculite can be used, but the substrate is not important as they will spend most of their time hiding in plants. Moss helps provide extra moisture and humidity.
Hiding Place/Den	Provide plenty of plants – either artificial or real – for gargoyle geckos as they need places to hide.

Cage Type	Ten gallon aquariums or critter cages with screen tops work well for gargoyle geckos. This provides plenty of room for plants for them to hide in. Use care when removing the screen top to prevent the gargoyle gecko from escaping.
Diet	Commercial diets like Repashi have contributed to longer lives in captivity, as they are complete diets and should form the basis. Mix the powder with water and change if it gets dry. Offer fruits, like bananas, mango, pears, peaches, cantaloupe, watermelon, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, apples, figs, dates, plums, and apricots occasionally as treats. Fruit based baby foods can also be offered occasionally for variety. Gargoyle geckos relish insects and some hobbyists choose to offer these as either a primary diet or as supplementary diet.
Supplements	Crickets should be lightly coated with a vitamin/mineral supplement that contains calcium, vitamin D3, and a complement of other essential vitamins and minerals.
Diet Precautions	Gargoyle geckos have simple diet requirements, and need little extra foods. Ensure food is the right size; larger crickets might be harder for the gargoyle gecko to eat.
Feeding	Feed in the evenings and remove uneaten food in the morning. Make sure fruits are soft or mashed and insects are small enough.
Water Source	Provide a shallow water bowl for humidity and for soaking. Change water daily to keep clean.
Grooming	Gargoyle geckos do shed their skin, so provide a water bowl to aid this process.
Oral and Foot Care	There are no foot or oral concerns.
Proper Handling	Newly purchased gargoyle geckos should not be handled, but first allowed to settle in for three to four weeks to let them adjust to their new environment and to make sure they are eating regularly. After that period, handling should be kept minimal and only when the gargoyle gecko reaches 3 inches long.
Habitat Maintenance	Spot clean soiled areas and plants. Use vinegar to clean water spots on glass from misting. Every few weeks replace substrate to prevent mold from growing.
Health Concerns	A hardy species, gargoyle geckos stay healthy when you maintain a good diet, proper temperature and humidity.