

# Gargoyle Gecko



## OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Rhacodactylus auriculatus*
- Country of Origin: New Caledonia
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 7 to 9 inches
- Life Span: Up to 20 years
- Nocturnal
- Diet: Insects & Specialist Gecko Food
- Temperament: Friendly, but can be jumpy

## TOP TIPS

- ✓ Use a taller Terrarium for this arboreal gecko who likes to climb
- ✓ Allow some open spaces in the Terrarium so that the gecko can jump from branch to branch.
- ✓ Ensure temperatures do not get too hot as Geckos do not like too much heat
- ✓ Try using an elevated feeding platform to offer specially formulated Gecko diet & water.
- ✓ Gargoyle Geckos prefer to drink water droplets after the tank has been sprayed.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

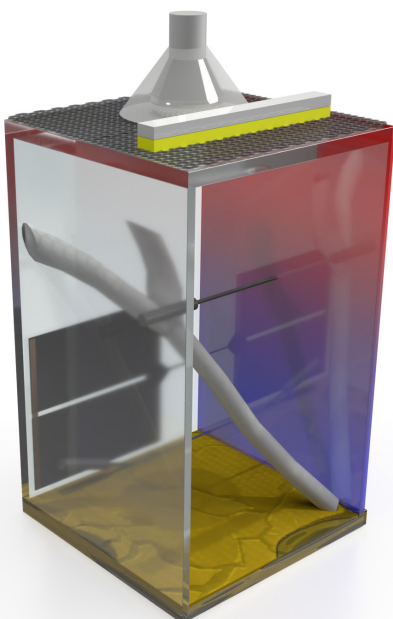


- Housing: Terrarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Coir or HabiStat Jungle Bio
- Water: Water via an elevated feeding platform, Water bowl, and Misting

## ENVIRONMENT



### Arboreal Terrarium Setup



### Heating

Gargoyle Geckos are crepuscular animals requiring a suitable background temperature with a warmer area towards the top of the terrarium.

- Background Temp: 23.3-31°C (74-88°F)
- HOT Spot: 26-29°C (79-84°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18-24°C (64-75°F)

Provide a warmer area towards the top of the enclosure, using an overhead heat bulb to offer a heat gradient. We recommend using an Arcadia Reflector Clamp Lamp (RARM160) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running through a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Gargoyle Gecko. Insert the probe through the lid

of the terrarium and attach directly to a branch or similar in the top quarter of the enclosure ensuring this area has a range of 26°C-29°C (79°F-84°F)

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Heat Mat and HabiStat Mat Stat if they are dropping too low.

Check temperatures regularly using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

## Lighting

In their natural environment, Gargoyle Geckos are exposed to low levels of light and UV due to their primarily crepuscular nature. In captivity, we recommend the Arcadia ShadeDweller (RARTP8S), a UV tube which has been specifically designed for crepuscular species. Make sure the UV light is fitted correctly and the Gargoyle Gecko is not able to get too close.

## Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- Gargoyle Geckos can be housed on HabiStat Coir (HSCB) with HabiStat Moss (HSMS250) added to the mix. This will retain moisture and help maintain humidity.
- Wood/branches for climbing, hiding and sleeping on.
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Gargoyle Gecko to shelter.

## DIET & WATER

Your Gargoyle Gecko is an omnivorous species and therefore is a keen fruit and nectar drinker as well as requiring insects in its diet.

Feed your Gecko in the evening as it will be at its most active during the night. Offer a varied range of appropriately sized insects. Once a week, offer one of the specially formulated Gecko Foods such as HabiStat Crested Gecko Diet Banana and Cricket (HSCDBC).

Always provide a source of fresh water ideally on an arboreal feeding platform to maintain hydration such as the HabiStat Feeding Ledge (HSFLS). Misting the enclosure will also allow the Gargoyle Gecko to drink droplets which form.

## SUPPLEMENTATION

Day Gecko need additional supplementation to help them to flourish and maintain healthy and productive lives. We recommend using a calcium and multi-vitamin powder. Please follow the product instructions

## HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your gecko healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your gecko, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Gargoyle Geckos have a prehensile tail, which allows the tail to be used for gripping on to branches as well as providing stability when jumping from one area of the enclosure to the other. They can drop their tail if feeling threatened or under attack. Once the Gargoyle Gecko has dropped its tail it will grow back over time, although it can be visually different in colour and size.

When shedding, the process begins by the Gecko rubbing its face against an object to loosen the skin around its face. It will take the loose skin in its mouth and begin to eat it as it sheds. Normally the skin will shed in one piece and the Gecko will eat it all. It is worth checking the gecko's toes to ensure that all the old skin has been shed as if any is left it will begin to constrict the blood supply to the toes and will eventually cause problems.

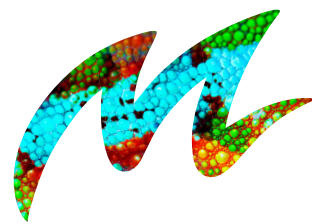
Gargoyle Gecko's don't always tolerate being handled; the young of the species are often far more skittish (jumpy). Adult Gargoyle Geckos will often come out to an outstretched hand at the entrance of their enclosure, but we don't recommend trying to grab your Gargoyle Gecko as you may injure them.

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