

Standing's Day Gecko

Phelsuma standingi

Reptile

Scientific Name

Phelsuma standingi

Other Names

Banded Day Gecko

Range

Southwest Madagascar

Habitat

Dry thorn forests

Average Size

Length: 7 – 9 in.

Weight: 40 – 80 g.

Description

Small bluish-gray to turquoise lizard with brown dorsal stripes and a beige underside

Lifespan

In the wild: 5 years

In captivity: 10 years

Diet

In the wild: Insects, nectar, pollen and fruit

In captivity: Crickets and mealworms

Clutch Size

1 to 2 eggs

Incubation

70 days

Sexual Maturity

1 to 2 years

Predators

Birds of prey and snakes

Population Status

Threatened



Behavior

This arboreal lizard is diurnal (active in the daytime) which is unusual for geckos. They spend their days searching for insects and fruits in the trees. They are most often seen in pairs on tree trunks, facing downwards. Standing's Day Geckos are very communicative and make a variety of noises including clicks, squeaks and croaks that may sound more like a frog than a lizard. Males especially use body posturing to convey their moods and announce their territory.

Excellent climbers by nature, these geckos have tiny hair-like structures on the bottom of their flattened toe pads called setae that allow them to walk on glass, walls and ceilings or to make a fast getaway where no predators can follow.

Reproduction and Breeding

The breeding season for this day gecko is in fall and early summer, generally November through March. After a brief courtship and mating, females lay one to two eggs every four to six weeks. The hatchlings are yellowish-green and are ready and able to fend for themselves. Neither adult provides parental care but the new hatchlings may remain in the same area for a few weeks to months.

Because of the amount of calcium needed to produce solid egg shells, sexually mature females store calcium in their endolymphatic glands right behind their heads.

Conservation

The Standing's Day Gecko is listed in appendix II of CITES which prohibits their commercial trade. Although they are thought to have stable populations in most of their range, loss of habitat is a serious concern. Because they are found on the island of Madagascar, they are unable to leave in search of new habitat or different genetic populations.



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Amazing Facts

This is one of the largest geckos in Madagascar and the largest living species of day gecko!

Day geckos do not have eyelids but a clear, protective plate-like covering over their eyes. They use their tongues to clean and moisten their eyes!

Due to their diurnal nature, these geckos have round pupils instead of vertical slotted ones!

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