



ROUGH BANDED KNOB TAILED GECKO

Nephurus wheeleri cinctus

POPULATION STATUS

L Least Concern

CONSERVATION

- There are no direct conservation measures in place for this species at the present time
- and it is listed as a species of Least Concern by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). Both subspecies are found in protected areas and further taxonomic research is underway to clarify the relationship between the recognized subspecies.
- This species is legal in the pet trade and is on the approved list of native reptiles that can be kept as pets in Western Australia.





SCIENTIFIC NAME

Nephruus wheeleri cinctus

RANGE

Western Madagascar

HABITAT

Arid deserts with rocky areas, inland cliffs, and mountain peaks

DESCRIPTION

A small gecko with red orange to orange coloring with dark brown to black bands and spots. There is a substantial knob at the end of the tail.

AVERAGE SIZE

Length: 4 – 5 inches

Weight: 20 – 30 grams

LIFESPAN

8 – 10 years of age

DIET

Insects, worms, larvae, and spiders

INCUBATION PERIOD

4 – 6 weeks

CLUTCH SIZE

1 – 2 eggs

PREDATORS

Birds of prey, foxes, and house cats

BEHAVIOR

- This small species of gecko is terrestrial (spends its time on the ground) and nocturnal (active at nighttime). Due to their arid habitat, they get the moisture they need from the insects they eat and will lick dew off the leaves or rocks. Like many lizards they are mostly solitary except for during mating and breeding seasons. When nervous or stressed, they can drop their tails to fool a predator and the tail will grow back in a few weeks.

REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING

- Breeding season in the wild is between October and March, in the warmer season.
- Males search out and mate with receptive females in the area and leave shortly thereafter.
- The female lays her eggs on the ground, in a shallow depression in the dirt. Although the female may remain in the area where the eggs are buried, she does not provide any parental care to the offspring. Females lay a pair of eggs every 30 to 40 days.

AMAZING FACTS

- The genus *Nephruus* is endemic to Australia.
- This species is named for the rough, textured scales on its body.
- Like many geckos, this species is very vocal and known for its raspy “bark”.

