



Australian Giant Stone Gecko Care Sheet

Species name:

Diplodactylus granariensis rex

Adult size:

9cm

Lifespan:

6-8 Years



The Australian Giant Stone Gecko (*Diplodactylus g. rex*) is a remarkable reptile endemic to the arid regions of Australia, particularly found in the rocky outcrops and boulder-strewn habitats of the country's interior. Despite being small in size growing up to around 9cm it is one of the largest *Diplodactylus* species.

Possessing distinctively textured skin resembling the surrounding stones, this gecko blends seamlessly into its rocky environment, providing effective camouflage against predators. The Australian Giant Stone Gecko is predominantly nocturnal, emerging under the cover of darkness to hunt for insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates. Its adaptation to the harsh desert conditions and its cryptic appearance makes it a fascinating Gecko species.

Housing:

Enclosure: A vivarium of 12"x12"x18" is recommended for one or two adult geckos.

Substrate: Use a substrate such as reptile-safe sand or gravel to replicate the rocky terrain of its natural habitat. Ensure the substrate is kept clean and dry to prevent the growth of bacteria.

Temperature:

Maintain a temperature range of 25-30°C (77-86°F) during the day, with a slight drop at night.

Lighting:

Australian Giant Stone geckos do not require UVB lighting however there are studies that indicate it has benefits towards their health and well-being. A shade dwelling UVB light can therefore be used at the owner's discretion.

They will also require a day/night cycle. It is recommended they are provided with around 14 hours of light during the summer and down to 10 hours in the winter.

Feeding:

Diet: Offer a varied diet of gut-loaded insects such as crickets, mealworms, and roaches. Dust prey items with calcium and vitamin supplements to ensure proper nutrition.

Feeding Schedule: Feed every other day for adults and daily for juveniles. Dust insects with a calcium supplement at least twice a week.



Hydration:

Provide a shallow water dish for drinking and ensure the enclosure has proper humidity levels, but avoid making the habitat too humid as this species prefers drier conditions.

Handling and Enrichment:

Gentle Handling: Australian Giant Stone Geckos are generally shy and may become stressed by handling. Minimize handling to avoid causing unnecessary stress to the gecko.

Enrichment: Provide structures and hiding spots which can help create a more stimulating environment as well as providing them with security during daylight hours when they normally hide away.

Health Care:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your gecko to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

Hygiene: Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

Quarantine: Quarantine new geckos before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Australian Giant Stone Geckos make fascinating and low-maintenance pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your gecko's individual needs.