



House/Mediterranean Gecko *Hemidactylus* sp.

- House and Mediterranean geckos are indigenous to southern to southeast Asia and the Mediterranean in nearly all types of habitats including human habitations.
- They are a cosmopolitan genus of geckos, also found in many other tropical to subtropical areas of the world.
- These geckos are a nocturnal species with large, lidless eyes, distinct toe pads, and a widely variable ground color from light to dark brown, yellowish, tan, whitish, to pinkish with or without faint bands or stripes. Skin on the Mediterranean species is often granular with tubercles.
- If provided the proper care, these hardy geckos can attain longevity of 5-6 years or more.

Size

Ranges from 3 to 6" as adults.

Housing

House and Mediterranean geckos are arboreal geckos. Housing must be sealed and escape proof. Provide a 5-10 gallon tall terrarium or enclosure or secure plastic container with ventilation for hatchling and juvenile house geckos. House single adults in 10-15 gallon tall glass or screen enclosure of similar size and dimensions (12" x 12" x 18"). These geckos can be maintained on newspaper, paper towel, peat moss, or coco fiber. Provide ample live or artificial foliage, driftwood, rocks, or logs for ample basking, climbing, and hiding opportunities. For moisture, mist at least twice daily and provide a small bowl or dish of fresh water 2-3 times per week.

Ideal temperatures for house geckos range from 80-85 degrees F ambient temperature and an 85-90 degree F basking spot. Provide a daily photoperiod or light cycle of at least 10-12 hours.

Spot clean the enclosure for urates, feces, or uneaten food at least twice per week. Be sure to periodically replace the substrate, clean, and disinfect the enclosure and its furnishings at minimum every 2-3 months.

Feeding/Diet

In the wild, these geckos are insectivorous, and will eat a large array of insects and other small invertebrates.

In captivity, house/Mediterranean geckos are usually voracious feeders, and will eagerly consume many insects such as crickets, silkworms, mealworms, and roaches no longer than the gecko's head. They will also take day old to week old pinkie mice, but feed these sparingly. Feed these geckos 2-3 times weekly or every other day. Gutload feeder insects by feeding them quality diets, and dust them with calcium and vitamin D3 for added nutritional value. Offer food in a small dish or pan.

Handling

House and Mediterranean geckos tend to be delicate, fast moving, and skittish species of geckos. Therefore, handling should be limited to periods whenever necessary. As with some other species of geckos, they may chip or vocalize in response to being handled or when threatened. Handle any of these geckos gently and deliberately but do not drop or injure the animal. As with many geckos and other lizards, they can also drop their tails when frightened or

handled roughly. Take care to not grab your gecko by its tail or it may detach if your gecko perceives you as a predator or a threat.

****Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens****