



*Photo Credit: Project Noah

Malayan Green Eyed Gecko (*Gekko smithii*)

Green Eyed Gems

Also known as the Smith's Green Eyed Gecko, or just Large Forest gecko, the Malayan green eyed gecko is a medium to large sized, crepuscular to nocturnal arboreal gecko species indigenous to the rainforests and tropical forests and woodlands of southern to southeastern Asia from Myanmar southeast through Malaysia and Indonesia. Ground color of this species can range from a grayish to yellowish-green, or yellowish-brown with a series of darker brown, alternating light and dark banding or mottling, and their large, vibrantly green irises, lending to their common name. As with many gecko species, these geckos are known for their vocalizations, which sound like "gekk-gekk-gekk". They are an adaptable species of gecko, often being found in and near rural to suburban human habitations. Malaysian green eyed geckos are known for being quite territorial, and use their vocalizations to signal their territory as well as when threatened or in distress. These geckos also have sturdy, semi-prehensile tails, and large prominent toe pads with lamellae coated with tiny, microscopic setae, which they use to adhere to surfaces using weak van der Waals forces. While not as popular and widespread in the reptile hobby and industry as, such as the closely related Tokay gecko, these geckos can be unique species of geckos for the slightly more knowledgeable and intermediate pet owner or enthusiast.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Suborder: Lacertilia

Infraorder: Gekkota

Family: Gekkonidae

Genus: Gekko

Species: *Gekko smithii**

*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, Malayan green eyed geckos can attain potential longevity of 10 to 15 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

Malayan green eyed geckos are a large, arboreal species of gecko which range from southern to southeastern Asia. More specifically, this species can range from Myanmar, through Indonesia and Malaysia. Within these ranges, these geckos occupy primarily arboreal to semi-arboreal environments, including tropical to sub-tropical forests, woodlands, cliff areas, and rural to suburban residential areas, or other areas of human habitation, often along tree trunks or interior and exterior walls and other sidings of houses and other buildings.

Origin/History

Gekko smithii Gray, 1842.

Unfortunately, information as to when the Malayan green eyed gecko, or Gekko smithii first entered the pet trade or herpetocultural industry are lacking.

Experience Level Required

Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Malaysian green eyes geckos are large geckos that begin and range from 2.5 to 3.5 inches as juveniles in total snout-to-tail length, and about 8.0 to 10.0 inches or slightly larger as adults in total snout-to-tail length. Snout-to-vent length ranges from about 7.2 to 7.5 inches snout-to-vent length (SVL).

Housing and Enclosure

Enclosure System: Primarily Arboreal. Housing must be sealed and escape proof, and the size of the enclosure recommended will depend on the age and size of the gecko. For hatchlings up to 6 months or so, a 5 gallon tall aquarium, terrarium, or similar enclosure is recommended. Once a gecko reaches or exceeds six months or so, a 20 to 30 gallon tall terrarium or enclosure should be used. Malaysian green eyed geckos are arboreal, and height is more important than floor space. Provide plenty of live or artificial plants, branches, cork bark, or other furnishings for ample climbing and hiding opportunities. Substrates that retain and hold humidity well are recommended, and naturalistic substrates can include sphagnum moss and fir shavings, natural moss, or similar substrates. To maintain humidity and hydration, daily or regular misting is necessary. They will drink the condensation from the enclosure's furnishings and walls, and a small water dish can also be provided, and must be kept clean, but will usually be seldom used.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Ideal temperatures for Malaysian green eyed geckos range from 80 to 85 degrees F ambient temperature and an 82 to 88 degree F basking spot. Nighttime temperatures can be 70 to 75 degrees F. Be sure to provide a daily photoperiod or light cycle of at least 10 to 12 hours. These geckos are primarily crepuscular to nocturnal, and thus do not require UVA/UVB lighting, although providing it in moderated amounts can be greatly beneficial for their health, immune system, and overall wellness. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, or UTH (under tank heating element). 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 to 3 months. More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well. These geckos require moderate to high relative humidity

levels, and should be maintained at, or within 50 to 70%.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous to Carnivorous; In the wild, Malayan green eyed geckos are insectivorous, and eat primarily insects and other invertebrates, although other smaller vertebrates may also be eaten. In captivity, feed these geckos a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, fruit fly cultures, or waxworms. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. These geckos also require additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation 1 to 2 times weekly or as otherwise directed for optimal health and development. This is in order to prevent Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) and other growth and nutritional deficiencies. Other feeder items, such as small, pre-killed rodents, and even house geckos and anoles can also be given on occasion, but sparingly. Overall feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Use care as to not overfeed them, as obesity and other health related issues can become an issue. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

Malayan green eyed geckos are a somewhat delicate species. While they can be handled, and will tolerate some levels of handling, this species is more of a display species, and frequent or prolonged handling should still be avoided. There are other, more handleable species of geckos available should this be a consideration to keeping this species.

****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****

Contact

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Disclaimer: Note that the information provided in these, or any care sheets, are not intended to be all-exhaustive, and further research and care should always be sought and provided when it comes to any species one may prospectively be interested in. These care sheets are also not intended to serve as substitutes for professional veterinary medical care and husbandry should any animal require it. Always seek proper and professional veterinary care for any animal should the need arise, and be prepared ahead of time for any and all husbandry costs and expenses that may occur with any animal beyond the initial purchase. Any animal owned is ultimately a matter of personal/individual care and responsibility. We cannot make any claims or guarantees regarding any information in this care sheet therein. This care sheet may be reprinted or redistributed only in its entirety.

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