



New Caledonia Giant Gecko

Rhacodactylus leachianus



Andre

I was born on **September 15th, 2015**, and arrived at the Racine Zoo in 2016. I live in the Discovery Center, and prefer to spend my time lounging in the branches of my enclosure. I'm usually not very active during the day time, as I am a nocturnal animal, but I can sometimes be seen sticking to the front glass door of my home. I have a reputation with my keepers to be quite mischievous, and often jump on their hands when they are giving me my snacks!

NEW CALEDONIA GIANT GECKO AT A GLANCE



- New Caledonian giant geckos have a prehensile tail for grasping. Like many other gecko species, they can detach their tails from their bodies when threatened.



- New Caledonian giant geckos have modified scales on their feet and tip of their tail to scale vertical, smooth surfaces.

- New Caledonian giant geckos are the largest geckos in the world. They are a good example of gigantism that often occurs on islands as a result of fewer predators.



Length: up to 14 inches



Weight: typically 8-12 ounces

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: 10-20 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care: over 20 years

WHERE ARE NEW CALEDONIA GIANT GECKOS NATIVE TO?



New Caledonia Giant Geckos found in low to mid-level canopy of humid forests, coastal forests, and lowland rainforests (1100m elevation.) There is a wide distribution throughout Grande Terre and the Pine Islands in New Caledonia.

New Caledonia Giant Gecko Behaviors

SLEEPING

New Caledonian giant geckos are nocturnal, meaning they are more active at night.

You might see my enclosure lights off, in order to make my home comfortable!



LICKING

Can you lick your eyeball?

New Caledonian giant geckos lack eyelids, so they clean their eyeballs by licking them.



CLIMBING

They are an arboreal species and climb up high in trees to rest in nooks and crannies.

Females generally live in the upper forest canopy, while males will remain lower in the trees, protecting their territory from other males.



EATING

In the wild I might eat insects, lizards, small mammals, fruit, nectar, and sap.

My favorite food in the zoo: insects, fresh veggies, and fruits.



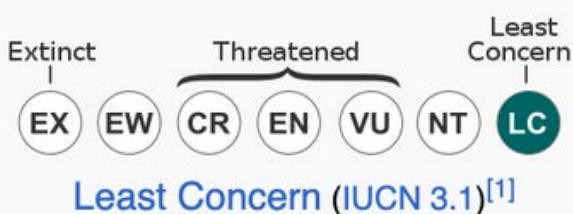
- As with many reptile species, the sex of New Caledonian gecko hatchlings is dependent on temperature. Higher temperatures result in shorter incubation times and a tendency to produce males.
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New Caledonia Giant Gecko Conservation

Predators, like the New Caledonia Giant Gecko, are very important to their habitat because they regulate the food chain. Their primary threats are habitat loss and predation by invasive species.

New Caledonia Giant Geckos are currently listed as **least concern**. However, increasing habitat loss and competition with invasive species poses a potential threat.

Conservation status



How can we help?

New Caledonian giant geckos are hunted by rodents and cats, which are invasive in some areas. Invasive species – both animals and plants – have wreaked havoc on many ecosystems around the world. Do your part to curb invasives: wash your boat between local bodies of water and only plant native plants in your garden.