

Care Sheet:

Goldstripe gecko



Goldstripe gecko (*Woodworthia chrysosiretica*)

Adult Size: Up to 80mm SVL.

Threat status: 'At Risk – Relict.'

Lifespan: Unknown.

Habitat: Forest and scrubland, flaxland, often found in association with species such as flax and *Astelia* spp.

Permit Level: Insurance population species.

Enclosure:

Minimum recommended enclosure size = 50x50x100cm (LxWxH).

Ideal Group Size:

2M:3-4F (plus offspring for 1-2 years)

Compatible Species:

Green geckos, Small diurnal skinks, Copper, Ornate and Whitaker's skinks.

Recommended Cage Furnishing:

Goldstripe geckos are relatively easy to keep and can be kept in small colonies (as per the recommended group size listed above), as they are one of the more 'social' native species. The enclosure should offer numerous refuge sites (hiding places), complex vegetation structure (lots of branches and foliage), and plenty of sun-basking sites. Plants such as mountain flax (*Phormium cookianum*), Taupata (*Coprosma repens*) and *Astelia* spp. can be used in enclosures to replicate their natural habitat. Ensure that your enclosure is escape-proof, as Goldstripe geckos are excellent escape artists and will find their way out of even the smallest gap. Always make sure that fresh water is available, and if water dishes are used, clean them regularly to prevent algal growth and bacteria from accumulating.

Breeding:

Mating occurs in April, with young (usually twins) born in February – March. Neonates should be separated to minimise any issues related to food competition with the adults. Fruit / vinegar flies, small house flies, and juvenile crickets make excellent baby food.

Diet:

Goldstripe geckos feed mainly at night, by stalking and pouncing on smaller invertebrates, such as moths, spiders, crickets and flies. When flax plants begin to flower Goldstripe geckos will spend much of their time feeding on nectar at the top of the long flower stalks. In captivity, offering a range of wild-caught invertebrates and sweet fruit-mixes (e.g. pears, banana) is recommended. Supplying berries (e.g., *Coprosma* spp.) and fresh flax flowers may act to replicate a more natural diet.

Notes:

- Goldstripe geckos are a shy and secretive species, but can be highly energetic and agile when they become active. They are the 'gymnasts' of the native lizards, jumping respectable distances from leaf to leaf. They are active both during the day (sun-basking) and at night when they spend most of their time foraging for invertebrates, berries and nectar. To appreciate this species fully you should observe them at night when they are most active, use a dimly lit torch or red light in order to minimise any disturbance to the animals at this time. Most individuals are golden or yellowish brown, with broad pale-cream stripes extending from the snout to the tail tip, however some individuals may be dark brown and lack definitive stripes.
- Currently considered to be restricted to the Taranaki region and on Mana and Kapiti Islands, near Wellington. Populations may exist north of Taranaki. Most often found in association with flax and *Astelia* spp., however also found in coastal forest and under debris on farmland.