

## MADAGASCAR GIANT DAY GECKO

updated March 2017



<b>Range</b>	Northeast Madagascar and off-shore islands to the east of Madagascar. They have been introduced to southern Florida.
<b>Habitat</b>	Intact or degraded native forests; also orchards where there are plenty of perches and food. Common habitats are large trees and on walls of buildings
<b>Diet (wild)</b>	Various invertebrates, very small vertebrates, and nectar. They also like to lick soft fruits and pollen. Their main source of water is from the condensation found on leaves.
<b>Diet (captive)</b>	Crickets, wax moths, wax worms, pinky mice, fruit flies, mealworms, houseflies, plus a calcium supplement
<b>Description</b>	Length: 12 inches. body is bright green with a red stripe from nostril to eye. Red dots or bars extend down the back; some individuals may have blue spots. Adults may have calcium sacks along their necks. The underside is creamy white to yellow. Under stress, coloration may darken and red markings may become more orange in color.
<b>Lifespan</b>	Wild: Unknown. Captivity: 15 years
<b>Reproduction</b>	Females lay multiple pairs of eggs during the Dec.–June breeding season. Young hatch after about 48–80 days, depending on temperature.
<b>Behavior</b>	Males can be quarrelsome and territorial with other males. Breeding behavior includes shaking of the tail or body, vocalization, and if the female rejects the male, she may change color to a darker green. Motion is usually slow unless startled. Madagascar day geckos tend to be found clinging to vertical surfaces, such as tree trunks and branches, where they rest and sunbathe.
<b>Our animals</b>	3 females, 1 male. Born: 2012–2013
<b>Cool stuff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madagascar giant day geckos are the largest species of gecko.</li> <li>• Madagascar giant day geckos do not have eyelids so they must lick their eyes often to keep them clean.</li> <li>• When geckos shed, they eat their own skin.</li> <li>• Madagascar giant day geckos can be territorial, and younger geckos are most aggressive. They will often make direct attacks on others if they are found in the same place.</li> <li>• Madagascar giant day geckos are often found in the pet trade. This is a threat to their wild population as many are exported out of Madagascar every year.</li> <li>• Madagascar giant day geckos were elevated from subspecies status in 2007 after significant evidence proved there were differences between Madagascar giant day gecko and other members of the Madagascar day gecko family.</li> </ul>

Phylum  
ChordataClass  
ReptiliaOrder  
SquamataFamily  
GekkonidaeGenus  
Phelsumaspecies  
*P. madagascariensisgrandis*