

Phelsuma Laticauda



[Least Concern \(IUCN 3.1\)](#)^[1]

Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Anamalia
Phylum:	Cordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Squamata
Family:	Gekkondae
Genus:	<i>Phelsuma</i>
Species:	<i>P.laticauda</i>

Binomial Name

Phelsuma laticauda

([Boettger](#), 1880)



Synonyms

- *Pachydactylus laticauda* [Boettger](#), 1880

The **gold dust day gecko** (*Phelsuma laticauda*) is a [diurnal](#) species of [gecko](#). It lives in northern [Madagascar](#), and on the island of [Comoros](#); it has also been introduced to [Hawaii](#) and other Pacific islands.^[1] It typically inhabits various kinds of trees and houses. The gold dust day gecko feeds on [insects](#) and [nectar](#). It is commonly known as the mascot of [GEICO](#).

One [subspecies](#) is recognized (in addition to the nominate one): *Phelsuma laticauda angularis*.^[2]

Description

This lizard belongs to the smaller [day geckos](#), and can reach a total length of about 15–22 cm (6–9 in). The body colour is a bright green or yellowish green or rarely even blue. Typical for this day gecko are the yellow speckles on the neck and the upper back. There are three rust-coloured transverse bars on the snout and head; the upper part of the skin around the eye is blue. On the lower back there are three tapering red bars. The tail is slightly flattened. The under side is off-white.

Diet



Phelsuma laticauda laticauda licking nectar from the 'bird of paradise' flower of [Strelitzia](#)



Close-up of gold dust day gecko on [the island of Hawaii](#)

These day geckos feed on various insects and other invertebrates, and are also capable of eating other smaller lizards. They also eat soft, sweet fruit and pollen and nectar from flowers, often congregating in groups of many individuals to feed off of one plant.

Males



Gold dust day geckos fighting on a [banana plant](#) in central [Saint-Denis, Réunion](#)

The males of this species are rather aggressive and can be quite quarrelsome. They do not accept other males in their territory. In captivity, where the females cannot escape, the males may also seriously wound a female.

Reproduction

The females lay up to 5 pairs of [eggs](#). At a temperature of 28 °C, the young will hatch after approximately 40–45 days. The juveniles measure 55–60 mm. They should be kept separately since even the juveniles can be quite quarrelsome. Sexual maturity is reached after 10–12 months.

Care and maintenance in captivity

These animals should be housed singly or in pairs and need a large, well-planted [terrarium](#). The temperature should be about 28 °C during the day and drop to around 20 °C at night. The humidity should be maintained between 65 and 75%. In captivity, these animals can be fed with crickets, [waxworms](#) (wax moth larva), fruit flies, maggots, mealworms and houseflies. They will also eat fruits such as mango and so will also accept commercially available fruit mixes like Repashy fruit mix or Pangea.