



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT YOCT and GORDON BEHODA

Mourning Gecko  
*Lepidodactylus lugubris*



Mutilating Gecko  
*Gehyra mutilata*

RESIDENT REPTILES  
GECKOS of the CNMI

Gual'ek Chamorro Galuuf Carolinian

IDENTIFICATION

Geckos are the most commonly seen reptiles in the CNMI. Their skin has a fine, velvety texture. Their toes are specially shaped to help them climb walls and trees

HABITAT and FEEDING

Geckos are found in a variety of habitats including forest floors, trees and cliffs. They are also common in urbanized areas. The House gecko and the Mourning gecko can commonly be seen in houses, clinging to the walls and ceilings. Geckos make a loud, chirping sound to warn off other geckos that try to enter their territory.

Their favorite foods are flying insects that are attracted to lights. Geckos are nocturnal, or active during the night hours.

REPRODUCTION

Geckos lay two small round eggs with hard shells. The eggs hatch in about one month. Parents do not care for their young. Some species, such as the Rock gecko are all female. They lay eggs that are genetic clones of themselves. This reproductive method is known as parthenogenesis.

THREATS and CONSERVATION

Predation and habitat loss are the primary threats to geckos. Cats, rats, and larger reptiles feed on geckos, especially the juveniles. On Guam, many gecko species are rare due to predation by the Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*).

The Micronesian gecko is listed as an endangered species in the CNMI. It is illegal to hunt, kill or possess any threatened, endangered, or protected species, or any part thereof, without a valid scientific permit issued by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.



House Gecko  
*Hemidactylus frenatus*



Micronesian Gecko  
*Perochirus ateles*



Island Gecko  
*Gehyra oceanica*



Rock Gecko  
*Nactus pelagicus*

GECKO GIRLS

Rock geckos are an all female species. They lay eggs that are clones of themselves.

FACTOID!



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