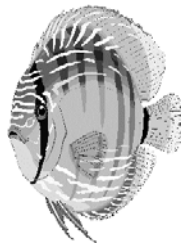


# REEF AND RIVER AQUATICS

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## Keeping the Marbled Gecko

-and other ground dwelling geckoes-

**Habits:** Marbled Geckoes are a ground dwelling, nocturnal species that shelter beneath large objects or under tree bark during the day. At night they can be found foraging on the ground or on tree trunks.

**Housing:** A pair of these Geckoes may be housed in an indoor terrarium at least 40 cm. long. Cage decoration should include suitable hiding places (such as pieces of bark or wood or flat rocks) situated in a warm area of the tank, so the animals can seek refuge during the day.

To stimulate the nocturnal activity of specimens and allow you to watch them, a red or blue globe should be installed to warm the cage to a temperature of between 24 - 28 degrees. This globe can run both day and night as long as the temperature of the enclosure does not go too high. The globe should be mounted at one end of the enclosure rather than over the middle as this allows a temperature difference to occur between the "hot spot" and the cooler end. A white light can be used to simulate daylight hours if the enclosure is not exposed to natural daylight.

Water should be provided continually in a shallow dish, but the interior of the cage should be "misted" with a fine spray of water every few days, as these lizards often like to lick up droplets of water. Occasional exposure to natural sunlight is also beneficial to the animals.

**Behaviour:** Although these lizards are naturally shy, they are quick to adapt to their environment, and will begin to show themselves quite readily. Handling of these animals should be kept to a minimum as they can be damaged very easily.

**Feeding:** A variety of insects such as crickets, maggots, cockroaches and moths will be eaten by these animals. Feeding should take place every two to three days. Some larger Gecko species will even accept Pinkies.

**Breeding:** Adult males show two lumps just behind the vent. These lumps are the hemipenes which are kept inside the body. All of the Geckoes are egg layers, and they usually have two eggs to the clutch.

**Species:** There are numerous other species of Gecko in Australia, and quite a few of these are available to be kept providing you have the correct license. The marbled geckos are the only species available to the non licensed keeper though.