



Species Fact Sheet



REPTILES <http://www.peoriazoo.org/reptiles.html>

New Caledonian Giant Gecko

Rhacodactylus leachianus

Peoria Zoo Exhibit **Historic Entry Building**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/exhibits.html>

Habitat: Arboreal (lives in trees) in Primary tropical forests

Range: Native to both the mainland and several islands off the shore of New Caledonia

Activity Cycle: Nocturnal– active at night

Size: Varies depending on locale with larger individuals found on the mainland. These can be up to 200 grams and 17 inches long.

Social Structure: Solitary

Distinguishing Features: A very large gecko with banding along its back that is dark green and light green.

The tail is prehensile, allowing them to use it to grasp when climbing.
The feet and the tip of the tail are covered with lamellae (modified scales) These allow them to crawl up almost any surface, including glass.

Diet: Insects, lizards, small mammals, rotting fruits and flowers

Life Span: 15-20 years

Did you know?

Many of the locals in New Caledonia call this gecko "the devil in the trees" because of the growling noises it makes.