

Painted Leopard Gecko

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Painted Leopard Gecko



Painted Leopard Gecko Latest News

A rare nocturnal reptile – a Painted Leopard Gecko – was recently spotted at Dilmili railway station in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, drawing the attention of the forest department.

About Painted Leopard Gecko

- It is a **colourful terrestrial gecko species**.
- Scientific Name: *Eublepharis pictus*
- **Eublepharis** is a **small genus in the lizard family Eublepharidae**, which contains **44 species in six genera** distributed in parts of North and Central America, West and East Africa, Middle East, South Asia, and the Malayan Archipelago.
- First described in 1827, the **genus** is currently **represented by seven species**, of which **five are known from India**.

Painted Leopard Gecko Habitat and Distribution

- It was **scientifically described in 2022** from the **Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**.
- The **Brahmani River**, which runs through the Eastern Ghats, **separates it geographically from the East Indian Leopard Gecko**, with which it shares a lot of similar traits.
- It prefers **dry evergreen forests mixed with scrub and meadows**.

Painted Leopard Gecko Features

- It measures 11.7 cm (4.6 inches) in length.
- It is usually **brown and yellow in colour**.
- Its **tail stands out**, marked with **contrasting black and white bands**, unlike the rest of its body.
- It possesses **over two dozen large, pointed scales**.
- It is **strictly nocturnal**, actively **foraging along trails in forest after dusk**.
- **While foraging**, the species has been observed **licking surfaces** as it moves, likely the **tongue is used as a sensory organ**.
- During daylight, it remains concealed inside burrows, under rocks, or within dense shrubs.

Source: **ETVB**

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