

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · COMPARISON CHART

Comparative Reptile Biology: Five Species

A side-by-side reference for the five species covered across GeckoDaily's care tables.

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Native region	Reproduction	Activity	Notable adaptation	IUCN status
Leopard Gecko	<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>	Eublepharidae	South-Central Asia (Afghanistan-Nepal)	Oviparous, TSD	Nocturnal	Movable eyelids; no toe pads	Least Concern
Crested Gecko	<i>Correlophus ciliatus</i>	Diplodactylidae	New Caledonia (South Pacific)	Oviparous	Nocturnal	Adhesive toe pads; non-regrowing tail	Vulnerable
Bearded Dragon	<i>Pogona vitticeps</i>	Agamidae	Central/eastern Australia	Oviparous, ZW + temp. override	Diurnal	Inflatable throat 'beard'; basking	Least Concern
Mourning Gecko	<i>Lepidodactylus lugubris</i>	Gekkonidae	Indo-Pacific (Maldives to Galapagos)	Obligate parthenogenesis	Cathemeral	All-female clonal reproduction	Least Concern
African Fat-Tailed Gecko	<i>Hemitheconyx caudicinctus</i>	Eublepharidae	West Africa (Senegal-Cameroon)	Oviparous, TSD	Nocturnal	Movable eyelids; fat-storing tail	Least Concern

Discussion angles this chart supports

- **Reproduction strategies.** Three different systems appear side by side: straightforward oviparity, temperature-dependent sex determination (leopard and fat-tailed geckos), a chromosomal system that temperature can override (bearded dragon), and obligate parthenogenesis with no males at all (mourning gecko).
- **Convergent vs. divergent traits.** Leopard and fat-tailed geckos are close relatives (same family, Eublepharidae) sharing eyelids and clawed toes. Crested and mourning geckos both evolved sticky toe pads independently in different families - a good entry point for discussing convergent evolution.
- **Activity pattern and thermoregulation.** Four of the five species are nocturnal or cathemeral; the bearded dragon is the outlier as a diurnal, heavily basking species - useful for contrasting ectotherm strategies for managing body temperature.
- **Conservation status.** Four species are Least Concern, but the crested gecko is Vulnerable and was presumed extinct for over a century - a real 'Lazarus species' case study connecting classroom taxonomy to live conservation science.

Pairs with the Species Fact Sheet and Adaptations & Physiology Worksheet for each species, and the Educator's Lesson Plan Outline, all available in GeckoDaily's Classroom Resources section.