



## Crested Gecko Fact Sheet

**Common Name:** Crested Gecko / New Caledonian Crested Gecko / Guichenot's Giant

Gecko / Eyelash Gecko

**Scientific Name:** *Correlophus cillatus*

**Wild Status:** Vulnerable

**Habitat:** Arboreal, temperate regions

**Country:** New Caledonia

**Shelter:** Trees/foilage

**Life Span:** 15-20 years

**Size:** 7-9 inches, half the body length can be the tail

### Details

Crested Geckos are nocturnal lizards only found in New Caledonia in the wild. Unlike many geckos, they are [omnivores](#) and will actually eat plants and vegetation in addition to insects. Crested Geckos are great at jumping and climbing, so a lot of vertical space is good for them to play and live happy lives! When threatened or stressed by predators this gecko can drop their tail - however unlike some [geckos](#), a Crested Gecko's tail won't grow back. They are generally nocturnal and will spent most of the day sleeping in high branches to avoid predators. Crested Geckos also have special pads on their prehensile tails - this helps support them when jumping across the branches of the tress they inhabit.

### Cool Facts

- No eyelids (have protective transparent scale over eye)

- [Semi-prehensile](#) tail (does not completely support weight of whole body)
- Tail will not grow back once they lose it (most in wild have lost their tails since they break off so easily)
- Store calcium in two sacs on the roof of mouth (important for breeding females)
- Very popular in pet trade, but are protected in the wild
- Thought to be [extinct](#) until they were rediscovered in 1994
- Hair like projections above eyes resemble eyelashes
- Have tiny hairs split into more tiny hairs on toes and tip of tail that help them cling onto solid surfaces

### **Taxonomic Breakdown**

**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Chordata  
**Class:** Reptilia  
**Order:** Squamata  
**Family:** Diplodactylidae  
**Genus:** Correlophus  
**Species:** C. cillatus

### **Conservation & Helping**

While they are popular in the pet trade, Crested Geckos are protected in the wild as they are vulnerable on the endangered species list. First discovered in 1866 by French zoologist Alphonse Guichenot, they were considered extinct for over 100 years until they were rediscovered in 1994.

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