



Trioceros Montium Caresheet

By: Cage The Chameleons

Trioceros Montium are a great display montane species. They are better off untouched, and best left alone in the enclosure. This species is very shy, and will take full advantage of a well planted enclosure. We observed that security in foliage is priority over basking out in the open. This species is not like common species kept, but need to be kept cooler, and need ample amounts of water. For all of this we rate the T. Montium as a intermediate to expert species.

Caging: We recommend T. Montium be kept in screen enclosures. Having a fully functional drainage system is a must to expel the water effectively. Adult males seem to be comfortable in a 18"x18"x36" enclosures, where as females do well in a 16"x16"x30" enclosure.

UV Lighting and heating: We have been using Arcadia T5HO 6% bulbs positioned 8" away from the highest perch. We believe that Zoomed T5HO 5.0 would be an equivalent. If T8 is being used, we recommend using Zoomed 5.0 positioned 6" away from the highest perch. Light schedule we use is 12 hours on and 12 hours off. It is best to use a timer. We do offer a basking zone and try to keep them around 78F - 80F. This is accomplished with a low wattage incandescent bulb. Lately we have been using Solar Blaster CFL plant growth bulbs with the best success. We aim to keep ambient temperatures no warmer than 70F, and allow temperatures to drop below 60F at night when the weather permits. It is vital to offer a temperature drop at night. Much like what Jacksons require to live a happy full life.

Water requirements: T. Montium require high amounts of relative humidity (RH). We aim to keep enclosures around 40-50% RH throughout the day, and 80%-100% RH at night. We recommend the use of a Mistking. As mentioned above caging must be set up to drain effectively so all water that hits the bottom leaves the enclosure, as to not cause bacteria that can lead to infection. We mist all T. Montium for 8 minutes first thing in the morning shortly after or while the lights turn on, then periodically mist the cage throughout the day for 30 seconds after the cage has fully dried out for at least 2 hours minimum. This helps to maintain humidity levels. Right before the lights are set to go off the cages are misted for 2-4 minutes to maintain RH throughout the night. One can easily switch this method out for a cool mist fogger, as long as temperature drops are provided. When using a fogger the temperature must be dropped, or you could run the risk of respiratory infection.

Decor: It is recommended to use live plants over fake to also help maintain RH levels. Many common plants used are Umbrella plants, Ficus, Hibiscus, and Pothos. All of which are completely cham safe. It is also recommended to use reptile safe branches that will dry out with the cage in between the misting schedule. Make sure branches are well secured, and be sure to give at least 6"-8" away from top of enclosure depending on UV lighting provided.

Feeders and supplements: There are plenty of commercially available bugs on the market today that are readily accepted by T. Montium. Crickets should be their main staple. Appropriate sized silk worms, horn worms, phoenix worms and super worms make for an excellent variety. Gutloading is crucial as T. Montium are extra sensitive to over supplementation. A high carotenoid gutload is recommended, along with other good gutloading ingredients such as, alfalfa, Hibiscus flower, carrots, parsley, celery greens, dandelion greens, apples, spirulina, and bee pollen to name a few. **Lei Yang** makes a great pre-made gutload that we highly suggest. Supplements are used quite sparingly. We dust prey with calcium 2-3 times a week and Zoo Med Repti-vite with D3 once a month as their multi-vitamin and dose of d3.

Egg Laying: Females will need a laybin as early as 9 months of age. They tend to not be very picky with where lay sites are chosen. We have provided a large plant container that spans most of the enclosure bottom and houses the plant for a lay box. We have noticed females tend to lay close to base of the plant and will bury the eggs typically 2" deep. Females will produce typically 4-14 eggs, largest clutch noted was 18 eggs from a fellow private breeder. Privacy is vital to T. Montium during this process.

In conclusion T. Montium are an amazing display specimen when kept in optimum conditions in captivity. We highly recommend skilled and experienced keepers as their care is very specific. Keeping this species perfect and in prime conditions make T. Montium a very rewarding chameleon to keep in captivity.

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