



Furcifer pardalis

Panther Chameleon

SEXING

In the Panther Chameleons, the sexes differ in many features from each other. They show the s.c. Primary sexual dimorphism, which is expressed through the presence of sexual glands (testes with ductus deferens in males and ovaries with oviducts in females) and copulatory organs (hemipenes in males, hemiclitoris in females).

The problem for sexing animals is, that some of these organs (first group) are situated in the body cavity and some (the second group) in special pockets at the base of the tail, none of them are invisible from outside.

There is a technique how to evert the hemipenis, but in young animals and in animals which are dehydrated, old or out of breeding season, it does not work reliably, plus, it might be painful for the animal and is definitely rather stressful, especially if done by an inexperienced owner, therefore not recommended.

Fortunately, there are several Secondary sexual characteristics, which allow us to define the sex rather reliably, especially in adult animals:

CRANIAL CRESTS

The male possess significantly swollen rostral crests that meet above the snout to form a concave rostral protuberance - a false horn, while the females possess a faint ridge only.

SIZE

The males are much bigger than the females, they can reach up to 20in /11in resp., usually stay smaller.



BODY PROPORTIONS

The females are built more compact with smaller heads and less rugous scales

TAIL BASE

Due to the presence of male copulatory organs, hemipenes, the tail base behind cloacal is thicker/swollen in males

GULAR CREST

The conical scales on the gular crest are relatively much bigger in males

COLORATION

The excited males show a wide variety of colors from red through green, blue, pink, yellow, to white, while females are colored usually in tones of brown, red and pink.

NOTE

For reliable sex determination, the size and colors and male swollen canthi rostrales horns are a good guidance in all ages starting 3rd month of age. There are many color forms of the Panther Chameleons, as a rule, the females look almost same but adult males display various, often very bright colors and colorful patterns.

TABLE

The left column relates always to male, the right to females

It shows the differences (top down) in:

General habitus

Head form



Chameleon Care 101: RIGHT – SIMPLE – SAFE

Tail base
Gular crest



Chameleon Care 101: RIGHT – SIMPLE – SAFE

