



# *Trioceros jacksonii*

Jackson's Three-Horned Chameleon

## SEXING

In the Yellow-Created Jackson's 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 HORNS

The male possess three big true rostral horns up to over 2in long, directed forwards while the females remain hornless. On the analogous places, where in males horns grow from the canthi rostrales, pointed tiny conical scales might be present in females. Extremely rarely, also one-horned females occur (2 in history).

### SIZE

The males are much bigger than the females, they can reach up to 17in /



12in resp, usually stay much smaller

### BODY PROPORTIONS

The females are built more compact with smaller heads

### TAIL BASE

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

### DORSAL CREST

The conical scales on the dorsal crest are relatively much bigger in males and are usually of yellow color, while in females the are Smaller and resemble usually in color the surrounding skin

### COLORATION

The excited males are usually of green to yellow color on the body, with dark green to dark blue casque and cheeks and light blue tail base while females are colored usually more conspicuously, either with a pattern or uniformly reddish brown, or grey or green. Females colored similar like excited males are known from Hawaii.

For reliable sex determination, the horns are a good guidance in all ages, even fresh born males have already tiny horns.

### NOTE

There are more forms and subspecies of this chameleon species, the most features determining sex fit, but there is a variability in coloration and in the number and level of development of cranial horns in the females: they can have one or three horns of various size, while males have always three.

### TABLE

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





# Chameleon Care 101: RIGHT – SIMPLE – SAFE

differences (top down) in:

General habitus

Head form and horns

Tail base

Dorsal crest



Chameleon Care 101: RIGHT – SIMPLE – SAFE

