macOS X has some incompatibilities with JAVA.
After checking a few help pages I found that openjava works nicely.

To install openjava, I first deleted the Oracle version:
I went to /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines and deleted both folders which were there.

Then I went to https://adoptopenjdk.net/archive.html and downloaded and installed jdk-11.0.9+11.1 (both JRE and jdk)
(the download site has moved to https://adoptium.net/temurin/releases/?version=11);
newer stable versions are available, but I did not try them yet. The above links still work for version 11.

Using the command-line in the terminal application the java version then was reported as follows:

```
> java -version
```

openjdk version "11.0.9" 2020-10-20
OpenJDK Runtime Environment AdoptOpenJDK (build 11.0.9+11)
OpenJDK 64-Bit Server VM AdoptOpenJDK (build 11.0.9+11, mixed mode)

IF you start Gepard through the command-line via the terminal application (Gepard-1.40.jar was placed in the /Applications folder):
> java -jar /Applications/Gepard-1.40.jar
things seem to work fine.

Starting the program through double-clicking started the program, but did not give access to the program to access files. :(

To allow Java programs access to the disk and allow starting the program by double clicking:

In the new version of MacOSX, you need to give disk access to the program to load files from directories in your home folder. Go to system settings (under the apple pulldown menu on the top left), select privacy and security, select full disk access.
Click on the + at the bottom and then navigate to the "java" program. On my computer this was at
/Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/adoptopenjdk-11.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java

You need to do the same for the Javalauncher (click on the + again)
on my system this is at
/System/Library/CoreServices/JavaLauncher.app