herpy

FROGS

Blue-sided Treefrog

Agalychnis annae

Agalychnis annae is a tree frog of 6-8 cm from the mountain forests of Costa Rica: green on the back, with orange eyes and sky-blue flanks and thighs. It is nocturnal, lives high up in the vegetation and is vulnerable in the wild. The species needs a cool, airy terrarium: 20-24 °C by day with fairly dry air, and heavy misting only in the evening.

Family: Phyllomedusidae Former name: *Phyllomedusa annae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-18 °C**
Humidity	**50-75%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 2-3 cm
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Eggs per clutch	**47-162**
Hatching	**5-8 days** at 22-24 °C
Larval period	**60-250 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

There is little direct husbandry knowledge about *Agalychnis annae*, so the figures here are partly borrowed from *Agalychnis moreletii*, which lives at the same altitude in the same type of mountain forest and has the same requirements.

TEMPERATURE

Agalychnis annae comes from higher-lying forests than the better-known tree frogs and does not tolerate heat for long periods. By day the temperature should be 20-24 °C, and it should not exceed 25 °C, not even briefly.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity is kept at 50-75 % by day, while the frogs sleep. In the evening, when the lights go out, the terrarium is misted heavily, so that the humidity rises to 80-100 % and falls again during the night.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

There must always be a bowl of clean water in the terrarium.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB is recommended, because vitamin D is necessary for calcium metabolism, and insects contain almost none. Ferguson zone 3 is borrowed from *Agalychnis moreletii*: an average UV index of 1-2.6 at the places where the frogs rest.

FEEDING

Agalychnis annae eats only insects. Brown crickets are the best staple food when they have been fed a nutritious diet for a couple of days before the frogs get them.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Agalychnis annae sleeps on leaves by day and is active at night. It moves slowly and climbs hand over hand, but jumps far when frightened, so open the terrarium carefully.

NATIVE RANGE

Costa Rica.