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FROGS

Black-eyed Leaf Frog

Agalychnis moreletii

Agalychnis moreletii is a 6-9 cm leaf frog from the mountain forests of Mexico and Central America: green on the back, with deep black eyes and orange flanks and thighs. It is nocturnal and lives high up in the trees. It needs cooler and drier conditions than most of its relatives: by day the enclosure must be dry and below 24 °C, and only in the evening is it misted damp.

Family: Phyllomedusidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-9 cm** snout-vent length
Weight	**6-25 g**
Lifespan	**5-11 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**
Basking spot	**25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-18 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
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	**23-334**
Hatching	**7-11 days** at 20-24 °C
Larval period	**60-100 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Agalychnis moreletii* lives in the trees, so height matters more than floor area. An enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm holds a small group of four animals.
TEMPERATURE	*Agalychnis moreletii* is a mountain species and must be kept cooler than the better-known *Agalychnis callidryas*. By day the temperature must be 20-24 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Dry air by day is essential for *Agalychnis moreletii*. Humidity is kept at 50-70 % by day, while the frogs sleep, outside the breeding season preferably around 60 %.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	There must always be a bowl of clean water in the enclosure. A bowl about 20 cm in diameter with 2-3 cm of water is enough, and the frogs must be able to climb out easily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is recommended, because vitamin D is necessary for calcium metabolism, and insects contain almost none.
FEEDING	*Agalychnis moreletii* eats only insects.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Agalychnis moreletii* sleeps by day on leaves and is active at night. It moves slowly and climbs hand over hand, but jumps far when frightened, so open the enclosure carefully.
NATIVE RANGE	Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.