herpy

FROGS

Large-webbed Bell Toad

Bombina maxima

Bombina maxima is the largest species in the genus: a stout, grey-brown, heavily warty frog of 6-8 cm with an orange belly, marbled with black, which it displays when it feels threatened. It comes from the mountains of south-western China and wants clean, cool water and a cool terrarium. It is easy to keep when the temperature is held down, but makes greater demands on water quality than *Bombina orientalis*.

Family: Bombinatoridae Former name: *Bombinator maximus* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**6-15 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**18-23 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-17 °C**
Humidity	**60-85%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 5-10 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**4-8 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Eggs per clutch	**20-150**
Hatching	**3-10 days** at 18-22 °C
Larval period	**30-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
The species needs an aquaterrarium in which about two thirds of the floor area is water and one third land. Four adults need at least 80 × 40 × 40 cm.

TEMPERATURE
The species comes from cool highlands and must be kept cooler than most frogs. By day 18-23 °C is suitable, and the temperature should never exceed 25 °C. At night it may fall to 12-17 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 60-85 %. The large water section does most of the work, so it is enough to mist the land section lightly once a day. Moss and soil on the land section must be damp but not wet, and there must be damp hides.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
The water must be 5-10 cm deep, and the animals must always be able to climb out easily, for example along sloping roots, flat stones or plants. The water is at room temperature and should not be heated.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Give 12 hours of light a day in the summer half of the year and slightly shorter days in winter, controlled by a timer. An LED fixture with a daylight spectrum gives enough light for the plants.

FEEDING
The food must move. Give ordinary feeder insects of a suitable size: crickets, flies, woodlice, earthworms and small snails. Mealworms are fatty and are given only once in a while.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is active by day and at dusk and is often seen out in the open, on land or floating at the surface. It is best kept in a group. In the breeding season things get lively when the males call from the water.

NATIVE RANGE
China.