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FROGS

Oriental Fire-bellied Toad

Bombina orientalis

Bombina orientalis is a robust, semi-aquatic frog of 4-6 cm with a green, warty back and a bright red, black-spotted belly, which it shows off when it feels threatened. It is active by day, tolerates room temperature, readily takes ordinary feeder insects and can live for many years. It is therefore one of the best species to start with if you want to keep frogs.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-6 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 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	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**22-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 5-10 cm
Water temperature	**18-22 °C**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Winter rest	**3-8 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Eggs per clutch	**2-150**
Clutches per year	**2-8**
Hatching	**3-10 days** at 15-25 °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

Bombina orientalis spends much of its time in the water, so it needs an aquaterrarium in which about two thirds of the floor area is water and one third land.

TEMPERATURE

The species does fine at room temperature. During the day 22-28 °C is suitable, and at night it may fall to 16-20 °C. A difference within the enclosure is good: warmest under the light, cooler in the hides.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 50-80 %. The large water section does most of the work, so it is rarely necessary to mist more than lightly once a day on the land section, especially in a dry room in winter.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water must be 5-10 cm deep, and the animals must always be able to climb out easily, e.g. up a sloping root, flat stones or plants. *B. orientalis* seldom swims under water but likes to lie at the surface.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Give 12-14 hours of light in summer and slightly shorter days in spring and autumn, controlled by a timer.

FEEDING

B. orientalis cannot shoot out its tongue, but catches its prey with a hop of a couple of cm and stuffs larger prey in with its front legs. The food must move, and dead animals are normally not taken.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is curious and active for most of the day and is often seen out in the open on land or in the water. *B. orientalis* is sociable and can be kept in pairs or groups, and the sexes can live together all year.

NATIVE RANGE

China, North Korea, South Korea and Russia.