herpy

FROGS

Yellow-bellied Toad

Bombina variegata

Bombina variegata is a small, compact frog of 3-6 cm with a grey-brown, sharp-warted back and a bright yellow and blue-grey belly, which it displays when it feels threatened. The species lives in the mountains and hill country of central and southern Europe, favours small, sunny waterholes and is hardy, inquisitive and long-lived in the terrarium. It needs cool temperatures and a cool hibernation, but otherwise little space.

Family: Bombinatoridae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-6 cm** snout-vent length
Weight	**2.3-12 g**
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
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 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water section** depth 5-10 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**5-10 °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	**12-24 months**
Eggs per clutch	**40-170**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Hatching	**2-3 days**
Larval period	**25-70 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

There are not many detailed husbandry accounts of *Bombina variegata*. The recommendations here are based on the species' way of life and on the close relative *Bombina orientalis*, which is far better known in captivity.

TEMPERATURE

The species is adapted to a temperate climate and should not be given heat like most terrarium animals. By day 20-24 °C is suitable, and at night it should be slightly cooler, 16-20 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 60-80 %. The large water section holds most of the humidity, so it is normally enough to mist the land section lightly once a day, especially in a dry room in winter.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water section should fill about half the floor area and be 5-10 cm deep.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Give 12-14 hours of light in summer and down to about 10 hours in winter, controlled by a timer. An LED fixture provides the basic light and makes the plants thrive. No heat lamp is needed. UVB is optional.

FEEDING

B. variegata has a large appetite and takes anything live that is small enough to fit in the mouth: crickets, small crickets, fruit flies, flies, woodlice, silverfish, small earthworms and small snails.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

B. variegata is inquisitive and sociable and can be kept in pairs or in groups. The animals should be roughly the same size, because large animals can eat small ones, and at feeding they can become a little pushy.

NATIVE RANGE

France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Czechia, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece.