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FROGS

Brazilian Horned Frog

Ceratophrys aurita

Ceratophrys aurita is the largest species in the genus: a broad, burrowing ambush predator found only in the Atlantic rainforest of Brazil. The species is rare in the wild and little known in captivity, so its care is based on its closest relatives. It must live alone, eats almost anything that fits in its mouth, and bites hard.

Family: Ceratophryidae Former name: *Ceratophrys dorsata; Ceratophrys varia*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-23 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**6-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**65-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**900-2,000**
Hatching	**2-4 days** at 24-26 °C
Larval period	**21-41 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Other tadpoles**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Ceratophrys aurita*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure is kept at 24-28 °C and at night at 22-24 °C. Use a heat mat on the side of the enclosure or a heating cable, never a lamp, which dries the air.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is kept at 65-80 %, at the humid end of what the genus's common species get, because the habitat is rainforest.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Always provide fresh water in a shallow, heavy dish that the frog cannot tip over and that is large enough for the whole animal to lie in.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary for *Ceratophrys aurita*, but a weak UVB tube (Ferguson zone 1) can be an advantage when there is plenty of shade and the chance to burrow. Ordinary LED lighting for 12 hours gives a steady day-night rhythm.
FEEDING	*Ceratophrys aurita* eats almost anything that moves and can fit in its mouth; in the wild also other frogs, lizards, snakes, birds and rodents.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is calm and sedentary and can lie in the same spot for weeks. It lures prey by moving its feet in the soil so that they look like crawling worms.
NATIVE RANGE	Brazil.