herpy

FROGS

Venezuelan Horned Frog

Ceratophrys calcarata

Ceratophrys calcarata is a broad, nocturnal ambush predator from the dry lowlands of Colombia and Venezuela. It lies buried with only its eyes and mouth showing and snaps up anything that fits in its mouth. The species reaches 6-8 cm, must live alone and is kept like the better-known species of the genus. It bites hard.

Family: Ceratophryidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and dry forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
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**
Sexually mature	**18-24 months**
Eggs per clutch	**335**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**2-4 days** at 24-26 °C
Larval period	**14-30 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	There is little knowledge about the husbandry of *Ceratophrys calcarata*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the terrarium is kept at 25-28 °C and at night at 22-24 °C. The lowlands are warm all year, so the temperature should not fall markedly in winter.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is kept at 60-80 %. The species comes from dry lowlands but lives in humid conditions during the rainy season, so the substrate must be damp all year. Mist lightly in the evening, so the soil is kept damp but not wet.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Always provide fresh water in a shallow, heavy bowl that the frog cannot tip over when it digs and that is large enough for the whole animal to lie in.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary for *Ceratophrys calcarata*, but the frog gets some UV in the wild, and a weak UVB tube (Ferguson zone 1) can be an advantage.
FEEDING	*Ceratophrys calcarata* eats almost anything that moves and can get into its mouth. In the wild adults eat mostly other frogs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Ceratophrys calcarata* is a calm, sedentary frog that can lie in the same place for weeks. It is nocturnal.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia and Venezuela.