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FROGS

Amazonian Horned Frog

Ceratophrys cornuta

Ceratophrys cornuta is a stout, wide-mouthed frog from the rainforest of the Amazon and the Guiana region, which lies buried in the leaf litter with only its eyes and horns visible and strikes when something edible passes. Females reach up to 15 cm, and the mouth can take prey almost as large as the frog itself. As a rainforest species it needs more humidity than its relatives from the dry plains further south.

Family: Ceratophryidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-15 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 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	**25-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-25 °C**
Humidity	**75-90%**
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	**36-48 months**
Eggs per clutch	**300-1,000**
Hatching	**3-25 days**
Larval period	**28-90 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 relatively little knowledge about the husbandry of *Ceratophrys cornuta*, because the species is bred far less often than *Ceratophrys cranwelli* and *Ceratophrys ornata*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the terrarium is kept at 25-28 °C and at night at 23-25 °C. The figures are borrowed from the other species of the genus and lie at the warm end, because *C. cornuta* comes from warm rainforest.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity is kept at 75-90 % all year, higher than for the related species from the Pampas and Chaco, because the species comes from rainforest.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Always provide a shallow bowl of fresh, treated water, large enough for the whole frog to lie in, but with the water level reaching no higher than the frog's mouth.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB is not necessary, but a weak UVB tube (Ferguson zone 1) can be beneficial. Hang it over one side, so there is always shade in the rest, and omit UVB for albino animals, which are light-sensitive.

FEEDING

The species eats almost anything that can get into its mouth. In the wild it eats frogs, fish, lizards, mice and other vertebrates as well as large insects.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Ceratophrys cornuta is a sedentary frog that lies buried most of the time and emerges only to eat. Fully grown animals are aggressive and can jump at a hand that comes too close, and the bite hurts.

NATIVE RANGE

Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.