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FROGS

Tomato Frog

Dyscophus antongilii

Dyscophus antongilii is a frog from the north-eastern lowlands of Madagascar: round, stout and uniformly orange to deep red. The female reaches up to 11 cm and over 200 g, the male is smaller and more subdued. It lies buried by day and hunts at night, and it is calm and robust to keep when temperature, humidity and hygiene are in order.

Family: Microhylidae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-11 cm** snout-vent length
Weight	**40-230 g**
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 35 × 35 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**23-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**9-24 months**
Eggs per clutch	**1,000-1,500**
Hatching	**1-2 days**
Larval period	**45 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair or three animals need a terrarium of at least 60 × 35 × 35 cm (length × width × height). Floor area matters more than height, because *D. antongilii* lives on the ground and digs.

TEMPERATURE

Dyscophus antongilii tolerates a wide temperature range and does well at ordinary room temperature. By day it must be 23-27 °C and at night 18-21 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 60-80 %. Mist lightly once a day or every second to third day, depending on how quickly the terrarium dries out, and use a hygrometer.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Put out a water bowl with dechlorinated water, large enough for the frog to sit in, and at least as deep as the frog is tall. Most frogs bathe in the bowl at night, so change the water every morning.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal and does not need UVB, but a weak UVB light (roughly Ferguson zone 1) does no harm and can be provided. For live plants a daylight tube as for aquariums is used.

FEEDING

Dyscophus antongilii eats only live food.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Dyscophus antongilii is calm and secretive. It lies buried most of the day and comes out at night. Adults can become somewhat tame, but at best tolerate handling, so pick it up only when necessary.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.