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FROGS

Sambava Tomato Frog

Dyscophus guineti

Dyscophus guineti is a stout, round, semi-burrowing frog from the eastern rainforest of Madagascar. The female is red-orange and up to 10 cm, the male smaller and more yellowish. By day it lies buried, at night it hunts, 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	**6-10 cm** snout-vent length
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	**22-27 °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	**200-3,000**
Hatching	**2-4 days**
Larval period	**28-45 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. guineti* lives on the ground and burrows.

TEMPERATURE
Dyscophus guineti tolerates a wide temperature range and thrives at ordinary room temperature. By day it should be 22-27 °C and at night 18-21 °C.

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

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Provide 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 low-output UVB light (roughly Ferguson zone 1) does no harm and can be provided. For live plants, use a daylight tube as for aquariums.

FEEDING
Dyscophus guineti eats only live food.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Dyscophus guineti is calm and secretive. It lies buried for most of the day and comes out at night. Adult animals can become somewhat tame, but at best tolerate handling, so pick it up only when necessary.

NATIVE RANGE
Madagascar.