herpy

FROGS

Marbled Reed Frog

Hyperolius marmoratus

A small, adaptable savanna frog from southern and eastern Africa, whose colours and patterns vary enormously from region to region and between day and night. *Hyperolius marmoratus* is nocturnal, sleeps on leaves by day, feeds on small insects and breeds in water when the rainy season begins.

Family: Hyperoliidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-5 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna and wetland**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 3-5 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**150-650**
Hatching	**5 days**
Larval period	**64-100 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Four adults need a terrarium of at least 60 × 30 × 40 cm (length × width × height). The frogs are fast and use the whole terrarium, so a group of five to ten animals needs a larger terrarium, for example 80 × 40 × 50 cm.

TEMPERATURE
By day the temperature in the terrarium should be 22-27 °C, and at night it may fall to 16-20 °C. That suits a savanna climate with warm days and cooler nights.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 60-80%. The species tolerates dry periods unusually well, but in the terrarium the humidity is kept even.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Place a wide, shallow water dish 3-5 cm deep in the terrarium, and keep it full at all times. The frogs often sit in the water at night and dive down when startled, because they have webbed feet and are good swimmers.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species sits in full sun in the wild and does best in a brightly lit terrarium.

FEEDING
The frog is a lively little hunter that takes most insects the size of its head or smaller. The staple is small crickets of 6-10 mm and flying fruit flies. Vary with houseflies and small moths.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Hyperolius marmoratus is nocturnal. By day the animals sit still on leaves, stems and panes, and at night they hunt, swim in the water dish and call.

NATIVE RANGE
Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Eswatini and Lesotho.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/en/frogs/hyperolius-marmoratus