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FROGS

Riggenbach's Reed Frog

Hyperolius riggenbachi

A small, brightly coloured highland frog from Cameroon and eastern Nigeria, with intricate patterns in black, red and yellow and an orange to red belly. *Hyperolius riggenbachi* is nocturnal, feeds on small insects, needs a tall, bright enclosure and breeds in water when the rains set in.

Family: Hyperoliidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-12 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**21-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-20 °C**
Humidity	**65-80%**
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**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Eggs per clutch	**30-300**
Hatching	**6-8 days**
Larval period	**45-120 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 an enclosure of at least 60 × 30 × 40 cm (length × width × height). *H. riggenbachi* grows larger than the very small reed frogs, and the frogs are fast and use all the space, so larger is better.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature in the enclosure should be 21-26 °C, and at night it may fall to 17-20 °C. A drop of around 5 °C at night matches a highland species and is healthy. Switch off all lighting at night.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 65-80 %. The figure is not documented for the species, but borrowed from *Hyperolius pickersgilli*.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Place a wide, shallow water bowl 3-5 cm deep in the enclosure, and keep it full at all times. The frogs often sit in the water at night and dive when startled.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The frog benefits from strong light, so a bright enclosure is a good starting point.

FEEDING

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

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Hyperolius riggenbachi is nocturnal and fast. During the day the animals sit still on leaves and glass, and at night they hunt, swim in the water bowl and call.

NATIVE RANGE

Cameroon and Nigeria.