herpy

FROGS

## Common Reed Frog

# *Hyperolius viridiflavus*

A small, fast reed frog from eastern and central Africa that calls like a xylophone at dusk, from savanna waterholes to gardens and fields. *Hyperolius viridiflavus* changes colour with age and sex, is nocturnal and feeds on small insects. It needs a tall, bright terrarium with many plants and breeds in water when the rains set in.

Family: Hyperoliidae

**KEY FACTS**

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **2-3 cm**<br>snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **1-2 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Savanna and wetland** |
| Skin toxins | **None known** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **60 × 30 × 45 cm**<br>L × W × H for 4 adults |
| Temperature, day | **22-27 °C** |
| Basking spot | **29-32 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **18-21 °C** |
| Humidity | **60-80%** |
| Water | **Water dish**<br>depth 3-5 cm |
| UVB | **Optional**<br>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 | **4-12 months** |
| Eggs per clutch | **94-800** |
| Hatching | **2-5 days** |
| Larval period | **56-120 days**<br>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 × 45 cm (length × width × height). The species is small but fast and uses the whole terrarium, so height and many perches matter more than floor area.

**TEMPERATURE**

By day the temperature in the terrarium should be 22-27 °C, and at night 18-21 °C. A drop of about 5 °C at night is natural and healthy. All lighting is switched off at night.

**HUMIDITY AND MISTING**

Humidity should be 60-80%. Mist the terrarium with clean, lukewarm water every evening when the frogs wake, and preferably lightly again during the day.

**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 are good swimmers, often sit in the water at night and dive down when startled.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**

The species needs strong light. Use fluorescent tubes or LEDs with a colour temperature of 5,000-6,500 K that cover the whole length of the terrarium, and switch them on 12 hours a day on a timer.

**FEEDING**

The species is a voracious little hunter that takes most insects the size of its head or smaller. The staple is small crickets of 5-8 mm and flying fruit flies. Vary with houseflies and small moths.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**

*Hyperolius viridiflavus* is nocturnal and fast. By day the animals sit still on leaves and panes, and at night they hunt, swim in the water dish and call. The call is tonal and resembles a xylophone.

**NATIVE RANGE**

Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo - Kinshasa and Tanzania.