herpy

FROGS

Amani Forest Treefrog

Leptopelis vermiculatus

A large, big-eyed tree frog from the rainforest of eastern Tanzania that occurs in a green and a brown phase: green with fine black spots or brown with a dark triangle on the back. *Leptopelis vermiculatus* is nocturnal, reaches up to 9 cm and is rare in captivity. The species is threatened in the wild and needs a humid, tall terrarium with cool nights.

Family: Arthroleptidae Former name: *Hylambates vermiculatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-9 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-8 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**65-85%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 3-5 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**50-200**
Larval period	**60-120 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Leptopelis vermiculatus*, and animals in the trade are often wild-caught.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature in the terrarium should be 22-27 °C, and at night it should fall to 18-21 °C. The night-time drop corresponds to a highland climate and is healthy.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 65-85%. Mist the terrarium with lukewarm, clean water once in the evening and preferably lightly again in the morning, so leaves and walls are wet and the air becomes humid.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Give the animals a wide, shallow water dish with 3-5 cm of water, kept full at all times. The males call while sitting in water, so the dish must be large enough for a female and two males to sit there.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is most active at dusk and at night and lives in the shade under dense forest. It needs a fluorescent tube or an LED lamp with a colour temperature of 5,000-6,500 K that covers the whole terrarium, so the plants thrive.
FEEDING	The species takes all insects it can overpower and is a voracious hunter. The staple is medium to large crickets. Tropical cockroaches are a good supplement and are easily kept as feeder cultures of their own.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Leptopelis vermiculatus* is nocturnal and territorial. By day the animals sit still and hidden in plants, and at dusk and at night they hunt and call.
NATIVE RANGE	Tanzania.