herpy

FROGS

Golden Mantella

Mantella aurantiaca

Mantella aurantiaca is a small, bright orange frog of 20-26 mm that is found only in a few small areas in eastern Madagascar. It is diurnal, thrives in groups and is not difficult to keep when the enclosure is cool and humid. The species is threatened in the wild, so only captive-bred animals should be considered.

Family: Mantellidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-26 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins in the wild	**Mild**
Skin toxins in captivity	**None** Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**20-23 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-18 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Sexually mature	**12-14 months**
Eggs per clutch	**12-30**
Hatching	**2-12 days**
Larval period	**42-98 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Mantella aurantiaca* is small but does best with plenty of space, because the males are territorial and fight over breeding and feeding sites.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure is kept at 20-23 °C with a drop to 16-18 °C at night. A few days outside the range do no harm, but longer periods of warmth cause health problems.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity must be 70-100 %, but the species tolerates a wide range as long as it always has access to water. Mist the enclosure daily, heavily in warm weather and less in cold periods.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	There must always be a shallow water dish or a shallow water area in the enclosure. Mantellas are poor swimmers, so the water must be so shallow that the frogs easily get out, and the water must not take up much of the enclosure.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The lighting is first and foremost for the plants. A need for UVB is not documented, but since the species in the wild is active in partial sun, a weak UVB tube is probably an advantage. UVB is therefore set to optional.
FEEDING	*Mantella aurantiaca* are insectivores and can take relatively large prey, up to about 6 mm.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Mantella aurantiaca* is diurnal and thrives in groups.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.