herpy

FROGS

## Yellow Mantella

# *Mantella crocea*

*Mantella crocea* is a small, diurnal frog of 18-24 mm from the forests of east-central Madagascar, yellow, khaki-brown, bronze or green with a chocolate-brown face mask. The species has a very small range and is vulnerable in the wild. It must be kept cool and breeds readily in captivity when the seasons are imitated.

Family: Mantellidae

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **18-24 mm**<br>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**<br>Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **45 × 45 × 30 cm**<br>L × W × H for 4 adults |
| Temperature, day | **20-24 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **16-18 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-100%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Optional**<br>Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)** |
| Kept | **In groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Tadpoles in water** |
| Egg-laying site | **On the ground** |
| Sexually mature | **12-18 months** |
| Eggs per clutch | **12-30** |
| Hatching | **3-12 days** |
| Larval period | **56-100 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Algae/plants and complete diet** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| IUCN | **Vulnerable (VU)** |

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | *Mantella crocea* is easy to keep, as long as it is kept cool. |
| TEMPERATURE | During the day the temperature should be 20-24 °C and at night 16-18 °C. The species is particularly sensitive to heat: wild-caught animals must not be allowed above 25 °C for any length of time. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | Humidity should be 70-100 %. Mist the enclosure daily, and let the surface dry out a little between mistings so the air does not become stagnant. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | There should always be a shallow water bowl in the enclosure. The species of the genus are poor swimmers, so the water must be so shallow that the frogs can easily get out. An exact depth is not documented. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The light is primarily for the plants. A UVB requirement is not documented for the species, but a weak UVB tube in Ferguson zone 1 with shade in the rest of the enclosure is an option. |
| FEEDING | *Mantella crocea* is an insectivore that feeds on ants, mites and other small arthropods. It takes relatively large prey for such a small frog, for example crickets as long as its head is wide. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Mantella crocea* is diurnal and thrives in groups. The males are bold, often sit out in the open and call with short clicks to defend their territory, while the females are shyer and hide under bark or in the leaves. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Madagascar. |