herpy

FROGS

Ebenau's Golden Frog

Mantella ebenaui

Mantella ebenaui is a small, diurnal frog from northern Madagascar. It is light brown to copper-coloured on the back, often with a pale X-shaped pattern, and black on the sides, and it reaches 20-26 mm. The species has one of the largest ranges in the genus, tolerates heat well and lays its eggs on land near water. Little is known about the care of this particular species.

Family: Mantellidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-26 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
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	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
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**
Eggs per clutch	**25-30**
Larval period	**56-70 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Mantella ebenaui*, and the species has received little attention in the hobby.
TEMPERATURE	Because the species lives in the lowlands, it tolerates heat better than many others in the genus. Use 22-26 °C by day and 18-21 °C at night; the figures are borrowed from the genus and adapted to the species' lowland climate.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Keep the humidity at 70-100 %. High humidity makes the animals show themselves more.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Place a shallow water bowl in the enclosure and keep it always full. The depth is 1-2 cm, so that the animals can easily get in and out.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The light must suit the plants, but must not heat the enclosure. Provide a 10-12 hour day and darkness at night. There is no evidence that the species needs UVB.
FEEDING	The species is a micro-feeder and eats small arthropods. The main foods are fruit flies, springtails, small isopods and newly hatched crickets.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy in captivity and hides a great deal, but comes out more at high humidity and suitable warmth. Males are territorial and defend places where they call, while females are more withdrawn.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.