herpy

FROGS

Haraldmeier's Mantella

Mantella haraldmeieri

Mantella haraldmeieri is a small, diurnal frog of 21-27 mm from the south-eastern forests of Madagascar, light brown on the back with black flanks, copper-coloured hind legs and red markings on the underside of the legs. The species is threatened in the wild and only rarely kept, so very little is known about its care. It is kept like the other species in the genus: cool, humid and never warm.

Family: Mantellidae Former name: *Mantella madagascariensis haraldmeieri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**21-27 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**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**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Eggs per clutch	**50-130**
Hatching	**3-12 days**
Larval period	**42-56 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**21-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-18 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Very little is known about keeping *Mantella haraldmeieri*, because the species is only rarely kept.
TEMPERATURE	The temperature should be 21-24 °C during the day and 16-18 °C at night, corresponding to a cool room. Heat should be avoided: over 27 °C can quickly become fatal for the genus. The figures are borrowed from *M. baroni*.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 60-70 % day to day and up to 80 % in the breeding season (borrowed from *M. baroni*). Mist the enclosure daily with decalcified water, heavily in warm weather and a little less when it is cool.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Place a shallow water dish in the enclosure, and keep it full at all times. The frogs are poor swimmers, so the dish must be so shallow that they can easily get out, and it must not take up much of the floor.
LIGHTING AND UVB	No UVB requirement is documented for the species. The genus is active in partial sunlight in the wild, so a weak UVB light (Ferguson zone 1) is probably an advantage, provided there is shade and plants so the animals can choose.
FEEDING	*Mantella haraldmeieri* is fed small arthropods: springtails, wingless fruit flies, newly hatched crickets, small woodlice, aphids and lesser mealworm larvae. The genus takes prey of up to about 6 mm. Variety prevents deficiencies.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The frog is diurnal and patrols its territory when hunting. The males call, defend territories and may wrestle with one another.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.