herpy

FROGS

Marojejy Mantella

Mantella manery

Mantella manery is a small, diurnal frog from the forests of northern Madagascar, dark brown with a white stripe on the side of the head. It is a close relative of *Mantella laevigata*. The species is vulnerable in the wild and known from few records, and little is known about its care, so the figures here are borrowed from related species.

Family: Mantellidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**2-3 cm** 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	**20-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-22 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
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	**12-18 months**
Eggs per clutch	**12-30**
Hatching	**3-12 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	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about keeping *Mantella manery*. The habitat is leaf litter by water in low-lying forest in northern Madagascar.
TEMPERATURE	The temperature should be 20-26 °C during the day and 17-22 °C at night. The figures are borrowed from *M. laevigata*, which also comes from the lowlands and tolerates somewhat more heat than most species in the genus.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 80-100 % (borrowed from *M. laevigata*). Mist the enclosure daily with decalcified water, heavily in warm weather and a little less when it is cool. The substrate should be damp, but not waterlogged.
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	The UVB requirement is not documented for the species. A weak UVB light in Ferguson zone 1 is an advantage when there is shade and plants so the animals can choose for themselves. Light for the plants should not give off heat.
FEEDING	The genus takes prey of up to about 6 mm. Give newly hatched crickets, wingless fruit flies, springtails, small woodlice, aphids, small cockroach nymphs, lesser mealworm larvae and termites.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The frogs of the genus are diurnal. The males call to defend territories and attract females, and they may wrestle with one another. The species' own behaviour is not documented.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.