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FROGS

Black-eared Mantella

Mantella milotympanum

Mantella milotympanum is one of the smallest frogs in the genus, under 23 mm, from a few swamp forests in east-central Madagascar. It is uniformly red to orange-red with a black patch above each eardrum. The species is critically endangered in the wild and is kept like its close relatives: cool and humid.

Family: Mantellidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-23 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**4-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest, montane forest 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	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Mantella milotympanum*.
TEMPERATURE	During the day the temperature should be 20-23 °C, and at night 16-18 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 70-100 %. Mist the enclosure daily with rainwater, reverse osmosis water or tap water treated against chlorine and heavy metals, heavily in warm weather and less when it is cool.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	There should always be a shallow water bowl in the enclosure. Mantellas are poor swimmers, so the bowl must be so shallow that the frogs can easily get out, and it must not take up much of the floor.
LIGHTING AND UVB	A UVB requirement is not documented. A weak UVB light in Ferguson zone 1 is probably an advantage, provided there is shade and plants so the animals can choose. The light should not give off heat.
FEEDING	*Mantella milotympanum* is an insectivore and, like the rest of the genus, can take relatively large prey up to about 6 mm.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Mantella milotympanum* is diurnal and bold for such a small frog. It hunts and patrols its territory for most of the day.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.