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FROGS

Cinnamon Frog

Nyctixalus pictus

Nyctixalus pictus is a small, nocturnal tree frog from the rainforests of Borneo and Palawan. It is cinnamon to reddish brown with small white to yellow spots and grows to 3-4 cm. The species breeds in water-filled hollows, has no fixed breeding season and is bred fairly easily in a terrarium with a small water section.

Family: Rhacophoridae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**3-6 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**Water section** depth 5-8 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Sexually mature	**8-12 months**
Eggs per clutch	**3-10**
Hatching	**14 days**
Larval period	**50 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A terrarium of 45 × 45 × 45 cm is enough for three adults, but a larger, richly planted paludarium is the best home.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the terrarium at 24-27 °C by day, and let it fall to 20-23 °C at night. The species tolerates a night-time drop of up to 10 °C, so ordinary room temperature at night is fine.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity must be very high, 80-100 %. Mist the terrarium every day, preferably late in the day just before or after the light goes off, with dechlorinated tap water, rainwater or reverse-osmosis water.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The terrarium must have a permanent water section 5-8 cm deep, taking up a good part of the floor. The water must be clean and dechlorinated and at the same temperature as the air.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal, and UVB is optional. A weak UVB tube with shaded places to retreat to is a good choice: it gives a little warmth and supports the daily rhythm.

FEEDING

Nyctixalus pictus eats live insects. Adults take small crickets and other feeder insects of a suitable size, and young frogs take crickets of about 6 mm.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is nocturnal and shy. By day it sits hidden among the leaves, and at night it is active on branches and leaves. The males call. A pair or a small group can be kept together in a roomy terrarium with many perches.

NATIVE RANGE

Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines.