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FROGS

## Red-legged Kassina

# *Phlyctimantis maculatus*

*Phlyctimantis maculatus* is a slender, nocturnal frog from East Africa and north-eastern South Africa with a grey-brown, dark-spotted back and bright red patches on the inside of the hind legs. It walks and runs rather than hops, climbs in branches at night and burrows down during the day. The species is hardy and can be kept in pairs or small groups, but the tadpoles take an unusually long time to become frogs.

Family: Hyperoliidae  Former name: *Kassina maculata; Hylambates maculatus*  **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **6-8 cm**<br>snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **10-15 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal, terrestrial and burrowing** |
| Habitat | **Savanna and wetland** |
| Skin toxins | **Mild**<br>Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **75 × 60 × 60 cm**<br>L × W × H for 3 adults |
| Temperature, day | **22-27 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-23 °C** |
| Humidity | **60-80%** |
| Water | **Water section**<br>depth 5 cm |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **In pairs or in groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Tadpoles in water** |
| Egg-laying site | **In water** |
| Eggs per clutch | **300** |
| Clutches per year | **2-3** |
| Hatching | **3-5 days**<br>at 24 °C |
| Larval period | **150-300 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Algae/plants and complete diet** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**
A pair or a trio needs an enclosure of at least 75 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height), and a large floor area is more important than height: *Phlyctimantis maculatus* lives mostly on the ground, but likes to climb up to about 50 cm.

**TEMPERATURE**
During the day the enclosure is kept at 22-27 °C, slightly warmer at one end than at the other, and at night at 20-23 °C.

**HUMIDITY AND MISTING**
Humidity is 60-70 % during the day and may rise to 70-80 % at night. Mist every evening with lukewarm water, preferably with a timer-controlled misting system, so that the humidity rises when the light goes off.

**WATER AND WATER QUALITY**
The enclosure should have a water section covering about a quarter of the floor, with about 5 cm of water and low edges or a branch, so that the frogs easily get out again.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**
UVB is recommended, because D3 in powder form alone is not a safe solution. A UV index of 2-3 at the warmest spot (Ferguson zone 2) is suitable, with shade in the rest of the enclosure so that the frogs can choose for themselves.

**FEEDING**
*P. maculatus* eats insects and in the wild also smaller frogs. In the enclosure, crickets, grasshoppers, flies, moths and calci worms are used, and the feeder insects must be no larger than the distance between the frog's eyes.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**
*P. maculatus* is shy and lies hidden or buried for most of the day. At night it becomes active, climbs and goes hunting. The males call with a loud, short croak that is repeated at intervals.

**NATIVE RANGE**
Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Eswatini.