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FROGS

Red-banded Rubber Frog

Phrynomantis bifasciatus

Phrynomantis bifasciatus is a compact, smooth and shiny frog from southern and eastern Africa. It is black with sharp red to cream bands, walks more than it hops and prefers to eat ants and other small arthropods. The skin secretion is toxic to other frogs, so the species must not be kept with other species.

Family: Microhylidae Former name: *Phrynomerus bifasciatus* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-7 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**300-1,500**
Hatching	**4 days**
Larval period	**30-90 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
Little is known about the care of *Phrynomantis bifasciatus*, and the recommendations are based on the species' habitat and on the few experiences there are.

TEMPERATURE
By day the temperature should be 24-29 °C, and at night 20-23 °C. The species comes from warm, semi-arid country and does best at the warm end of the range.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 50-70 %. The species comes from dry to moist savanna and is more drought-tolerant than most frogs, but it can still dry out.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Put a large, shallow dish of clean water in the terrarium, large enough for the frog to lie in and shallow enough for it to climb out easily.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Phrynomantis bifasciatus has no known need for UVB, but weak UVB can be provided and benefits the plants. Ordinary terrarium lighting for 10-12 hours a day gives a clear daily rhythm.

FEEDING
Phrynomantis bifasciatus has a small mouth and prefers small prey. In the wild the diet consists mostly of ants and termites, but also other small arthropods such as grasshoppers and spiders.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Phrynomantis bifasciatus is a calm frog that walks and runs more than it hops. It is most active in the evening and at night and hides by day. When threatened it inflates itself and shows the red bands.

NATIVE RANGE
Congo - Kinshasa, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, South Africa and Eswatini.