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FROGS

Orange-legged Leaf Frog

Pithecopus hypochondrialis

Pithecopus hypochondrialis is a small, slender leaf frog from northern South America with bright orange flanks and thighs, barred in black, and large eyes with a vertical slit pupil. It is nocturnal, walks slowly through the branches instead of hopping and breeds in the enclosure if a rainy season is imitated.

Family: Phyllomedusidae Former name: *Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-5 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna, dry forest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Eggs per clutch	**38-100**
Hatching	**5-14 days** at 23-25 °C
Larval period	**40-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	For a pair or a small group of up to four animals, a tall enclosure of 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height) is a good size, and bigger is always better.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 24-28 °C by day. At night the temperature should fall a few degrees, to 20-22 °C. A warm spot is not needed, but you can let a small area under a weak lamp be a couple of degrees warmer so that the frog can choose for itself.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 50-60 % by day and rise to around 70-80 % at night and after misting.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Provide a water bowl with a sloping edge or some smooth stones, so that the frog can easily get out again. The frog uses the bowl to sit in at night. Change the water every day, and use dechlorinated tap water or rainwater.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Provide 10-12 hours of light a day with a weak light source over one half of the enclosure and darkness at night. A fluorescent tube suited to plants is plenty, and it also provides light for the plants.
FEEDING	*Pithecopus hypochondrialis* is an insectivore and takes almost any feeder insect of suitable size: crickets, cockroaches, moths, flies and, now and then, waxworms. The feeder insect should be no wider than the frog's head.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Pithecopus hypochondrialis* is calm and slow and sleeps by day. At night it is active, climbs, sits in the water bowl and hunts.
NATIVE RANGE	Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.