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FROGS

Four-lined Tree Frog

Polypedates leucomystax

Polypedates leucomystax is a slender, nocturnal tree frog of 4-9 cm from South-East Asia, which lays its eggs in a foam nest by the water. It is adaptable, readily lives close to people and is easy to keep, but does not tolerate heat above 29 °C. Breeding is triggered in a rain chamber.

Family: Rhacophoridae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-9 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest, rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**23-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
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	**In a foam nest**
Eggs per clutch	**100-400**
Hatching	**3-4 days**
Larval period	**49-70 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

Two adult *Polypedates leucomystax* need a glass terrarium of at least 45 × 45 × 60 cm, and that is enough for up to four animals. The species jumps far and benefits from more space.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the terrarium at 23-27 °C by day and 18-22 °C at night. The upper limit is important: above 29 °C can quickly become fatal, especially if the frog also lacks water or moisture. A weak heat bulb is enough if the room is cool.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Keep the humidity at 60-70 %. This is managed with a hand sprayer, fogging system or rain system, several times a day as needed.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

P. leucomystax must always have access to clean water in a large, shallow dish that is easy to clean and that the frog can easily climb out of.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species does not need any light other than what the plants require. There is no documentation that it needs UVB, but a weak UVB source can be used for the plants and also has an antibacterial effect.

FEEDING

P. leucomystax is an insectivore, and crickets can be the staple food, supplemented several times a month with waxworms, silkworms, moths, flies, small earthworms and small cockroaches.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

P. leucomystax is nocturnal and sits hidden among plants and branches during the day, but readily snaps up a feeder insect that passes by.

NATIVE RANGE

Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.