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FROGS

Edible Bullfrog

Pyxicephalus edulis

Pyxicephalus edulis is a stout, wide-mouthed burrowing frog from Africa's savannas and flooded grasslands: smaller than *Pyxicephalus adspersus*, but with the same appetite, the same tooth-like jaw projections and a bite that must be taken seriously. It spends most of its time buried, is robust and can be kept in a relatively small terrarium.

Family: Pyxicephalidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-12 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and wetland**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**3,000-4,000**
Hatching	**2-3 days** at 24-27 °C
Larval period	**14-35 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Pyxicephalus edulis*, and most of what is written about bullfrogs concerns the larger *Pyxicephalus adspersus*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the terrarium should hold 23-26 °C and at night 18-22 °C. The temperature should be steady and must not exceed 28 °C for any length of time: even a rise from 25 to 30 °C raises stress hormones, and the animals lose weight.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 50-70 %. It comes from the moist substrate and the water dish, and the terrarium is misted daily with water without chlorine, so that the substrate stays slightly moist.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The frog must always have access to a large, flat dish in which the whole animal can lie and bathe.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is most active at dusk and at night and does not need strong light.

FEEDING

Pyxicephalus edulis is a predator that eats almost anything it can overpower. In the wild the diet consists especially of beetles and grasshoppers, as well as termites, millipedes, ants and spiders.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The animal almost always lies buried with only the eyes and nostrils above the substrate, waiting for prey. It is most active at dusk and at night and comes out to hunt and swim.

NATIVE RANGE

Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa.