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FROGS

Wallace's Flying Frog

Rhacophorus nigropalmatus

Rhacophorus nigropalmatus is one of the largest flying frogs and lives high up in the rainforest of Borneo, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. It is emerald green with black webbing between fingers and toes, and with its spread webbing it can glide up to 15 m between the trees. Females reach up to 10 cm. The species requires a very large, tall and warm terrarium, and little is known about its care and breeding.

Family: Rhacophoridae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 80 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water section** depth 10 cm
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In a foam nest**
Eggs per clutch	**800**
Larval period	**42-85 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

Little is known about keeping *Rhacophorus nigropalmatus*, and the figures here are based on the species itself and on the closely related *Rhacophorus reinwardtii*, which is smaller.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the terrarium at 24-28 °C by day and 21-23 °C at night. This corresponds to the lowland rainforest where the species lives, and the temperature must not exceed 30 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 70-90 %. Mist the terrarium thoroughly every day with dechlorinated tap water, rainwater or reverse-osmosis water, and let it dry out a little during the day.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The species must have a permanent water area that it can sit in and lay eggs above. The water must be 10 cm deep, and the frog must be able to get out easily via branches, cork and stones.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The frog lives high up in the tree canopy, and a weak UVB source of the type used for tropical forest animals is recommended.

FEEDING

Rhacophorus nigropalmatus eats live insects. Adults take large crickets, grasshoppers, large cockroaches and occasionally a wax moth larva as a treat; juveniles take smaller crickets, about a third of the width of the head.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is shy and nocturnal and spends the day hidden among the leaves, often sitting tightly curled up on a branch or on the glass. At night it becomes active, climbing and gliding.

NATIVE RANGE

Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.