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FROGS

## Harlequin Treefrog

# *Rhacophorus pardalis*

*Rhacophorus pardalis* is a medium-sized, nocturnal flying frog from the rainforests of Borneo, Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula and the Philippines. The back is brown to reddish brown with a dark, X-shaped marking, the webbing is bright orange, and the belly and flanks are yellow with an orange-red net pattern. Females reach up to 7 cm. The species is rare in captivity, and little is known about its care.

Family: Rhacophoridae  Former name: *Rhacophorus rizali; Rhacophorus rhyssocephalus*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **5-7 cm**<br>snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **5-10 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and wetland** |
| Skin toxins | **None known** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **45 × 45 × 60 cm**<br>L × W × H for 3 adults |
| Temperature, day | **22-26 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-22 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-90%** |
| Water | **Water dish**<br>depth 2-3 cm |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly, in pairs or in groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Tadpoles in water** |
| Egg-laying site | **In a foam nest** |
| Eggs per clutch | **100-200** |
| Larval period | **85 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Algae/plants and complete diet** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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| THE ENCLOSURE | Little is known about keeping *Rhacophorus pardalis*. The climate in its range is warm and very humid all year, and the figures in this guide are borrowed from *Rhacophorus reinwardtii*, which has the same size and requirements. |
| TEMPERATURE | Keep the terrarium at 22-26 °C by day and 20-22 °C at night. Keep the temperature below 28 °C, and do not use heat lamps. Check with a digital thermometer, and be aware of the room temperature in summer. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | Humidity should be 70-90 %. Mist every evening with dechlorinated tap water, rainwater or reverse-osmosis water, and let the terrarium dry out a little during the day, so that the air does not stand still. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | Place a stable, shallow water bowl in the terrarium, which the frog can sit in at night. 2-3 cm of water is enough, so that the frog easily gets out again. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The frog is arboreal, and a weak UVB source of the type used for tropical forest animals is recommended. Always provide shaded places where the frog can retreat. |
| FEEDING | *Rhacophorus pardalis* eats live insects. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The species is nocturnal and spends the day hidden among the leaves. It lives mostly on its own outside the breeding season, and males call from the water's edge in the rainy season. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. |