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FROGS

Red Rain Frog

Scaphiophryne gottlebei

Scaphiophryne gottlebei is a small, round, brightly coloured frog from the sandstone canyons of Isalo in Madagascar. Its back has sharply delineated patches of white, red-orange, green and black. The frog grows to 3-4 cm, buries itself in sand by day and climbs rock walls at night. It is threatened in the wild, and little documented knowledge exists on its care.

Family: Microhylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**2 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and burrowing**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rocky terrain**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-20 °C**
Humidity	**65-85%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Eggs per clutch	**3-500**
Hatching	**3 days**
Larval period	**24-30 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little documented knowledge exists on the care of *Scaphiophryne gottlebei*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 20-25 °C and at night 17-20 °C, matching the cooler canyons of the species' range. The species needs no heat source and thrives at normal room temperature.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 65-85 %, but the most important thing is that the substrate is moist all the way down, while the surface may dry a little between mistings.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The frogs must always have a shallow, clean water dish of 1-2 cm, so that they can easily climb out again. Change the water daily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Lighting should be subdued. The species is nocturnal and lives in dark canyons, and no need for UVB has been documented.
FEEDING	*Scaphiophryne gottlebei* eats all kinds of small insects and is greedy. Adults take crickets of about 6 mm, small dubia roaches, small mealworms, fly larvae and the like, and young get crickets of about 3 mm and springtails.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Scaphiophryne gottlebei* spends the day hidden in the substrate or in crevices between stones and cork. At night it comes out and climbs the rock wall.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.