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FROGS

Marbled Rain Frog

Scaphiophryne marmorata

Scaphiophryne marmorata is a small, plump, green frog from the eastern rainforest of Madagascar. The female reaches about 4 cm, the male about 3 cm. It burrows into the leaf litter by day, but also climbs in bushes and small trees in search of insects. It is easy to keep, but breeds only when the floods of the rainy season are imitated.

Family: Microhylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**21-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
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	**10-12 months**
Eggs per clutch	**300-500**
Larval period	**70 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little documented knowledge exists about keeping *Scaphiophryne marmorata*. The care is based on the species itself where possible, and otherwise on the closely related *Scaphiophryne madagascariensis*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 21-26 °C and at night 18-21 °C. The species requires no heat source and thrives at ordinary room temperature.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 60-80 %, but the most important thing is that the substrate is moist all the way through: when a handful of substrate is squeezed, it should clump and release a couple of drops.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The frogs must always have a shallow, clean water bowl, 1-2 cm deep, so that they easily get out again. Change the water daily. Use rainwater, reverse-osmosis water or tap water treated against chlorine and chloramine.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The light must be subdued. The species is nocturnal and hides by day, and no need for UVB has been documented. A weak UVB light, corresponding to Ferguson zone 1, does no harm and can be used if the terrarium has live plants.

FEEDING

Scaphiophryne marmorata eats all kinds of small insects and is very greedy. Adults take crickets of about 6 mm, small dubia cockroaches, small mealworms, fly larvae and the like, and juveniles get crickets of about 3 mm.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Scaphiophryne marmorata is shy and spends most of the day hidden in the substrate or under bark. At night it comes out, and it likes to climb about on branches.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.