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FROGS

Hill Garden Bug-eyed Frog

Theloderma asperum

Theloderma asperum is a small, nocturnal tree frog from the forests of South-East Asia. It is blackish brown with white warts that resemble bird droppings, and has deep ruby-red eyes. The species tolerates more heat than the other members of the genus and thrives in a small, humid terrarium with a water section. It calls quite loudly and is best kept in a small group.

Family: Rhacophoridae Former name: *Philautus asper*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-21 °C**
Humidity	**75-95%**
Water	**Water section** depth 5-10 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	**On leaves over water**
Sexually mature	**6-10 months**
Eggs per clutch	**4-15**
Hatching	**7-14 days**
Larval period	**75-180 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Theloderma asperum is small and can be kept in a relatively compact terrarium. A terrarium of 45 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height) is suitable for a small group of four animals.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 20-24 °C, and at night 17-21 °C. The species tolerates down to about 10 °C briefly and manages 24-25 °C without problems, but above 27 °C it becomes dangerous and can be fatal.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity is kept at 75-95 %. The species tolerates short periods down to about 50 % if there is access to water, but dry air without water can quickly be fatal.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The frog spends much time at the water's edge and even sits under water, so the water section is not for decoration.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The frog is nocturnal and has no documented need for UVB. A weak UVB tube for shade-dwelling species (Ferguson zone 1) can be used and is optional, but then the frogs must always be able to retreat into shade.

FEEDING

T. asperum eats insects. Small crickets are the most important food, supplemented with wax moth larvae, flies, springtails for the smallest young, small dubia cockroaches and soldier fly larvae.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Theloderma asperum is nocturnal and by day sits hidden in tubes, between plants or close to the water. It does well in a group as long as there is enough space, and it readily breeds in pairs, but a group gives the best results.

NATIVE RANGE

Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia.