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FROGS

Chapa Bug-eyed Frog

Theloderma bicolor

Theloderma bicolor is a small, moss-green frog from the damp mountain forests of northern Vietnam and southern China. It is flattened and covered in knobbly warts, so it almost vanishes among moss and lichen. The species is nocturnal and needs a cool, humid enclosure with a water section, because it does not tolerate heat. Its care is similar to that of the other moss frogs, but several breeding figures are borrowed from related species.

Family: Rhacophoridae Former name: *Rhacophorus leprosus bicolor; Rhacophorus bicolor*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-6 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest and rocky terrain**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 30 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**16-20 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-18 °C**
Humidity	**80-90%**
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	**8-10 months**
Eggs per clutch	**3-25**
Hatching	**9-22 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

The care of *Theloderma bicolor* is similar to that of its relatives *Theloderma corticale* and *Theloderma asperum*, but the species must be kept cooler. It thrives only in an enclosure where the temperature can be kept low.

TEMPERATURE

The species is a mountain frog and does not tolerate heat. By day the temperature should be 16-20 °C and at night 13-18 °C, which matches the climate in the uplands. For short periods it tolerates down to about 10 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 80-90 %, and never below 60 %.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water section is a permanent part of the enclosure. Provide 5-10 cm of water, with cork bark and cork tubes as land and hiding places.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is nocturnal, so the lighting is mainly for the plants. A 6,500 K fluorescent tube for 12 hours a day is enough for plants such as pothos and peace lily.

FEEDING

Theloderma bicolor eats live insects. Use crickets as the staple, supplemented with waxworms, dubia roaches, flies and soldier fly larvae. Feeder insects should be no longer than the distance between the frog's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Theloderma bicolor sits hidden among plants and in cork by day and comes out when it gets dark. The animals can be kept in pairs or in a small group of three to four, when the enclosure has enough space and hiding places.

NATIVE RANGE

Vietnam and China.