herpy

FROGS

Chinese Gliding Frog

Zhangixalus dennysi

Zhangixalus dennysi is one of the largest tree frogs in South-East Asia, a sturdy, pale green gliding frog from humid forests in south-eastern China, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Females reach up to 14 cm. The large webbing between the toes is used to glide between the branches, and males have an unusually powerful call.

Family: Rhacophoridae Former name: *Rhacophorus dennysi; Polypedates dennysi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-14 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 50 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 3-5 cm
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In a foam nest**
Eggs per clutch	**3,500**
Hatching	**7 days**
Larval period	**35-45 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

Little is known about keeping *Zhangixalus dennysi*, and the recommendations are based on the size and habitat of the species and on experience with the closely related *Zhangixalus arboreus*, which is a slightly smaller species from cool forests in Japan.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 20-25 °C and at night 15-20 °C, corresponding to a cool living room. The temperature must not exceed 28 °C for any length of time.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 60-90 %, lowest by day and highest at night. Live plants keep the air humid, because they release water at night, and a large, open water bowl helps.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Place a large, shallow water bowl in the terrarium, which the frog can sit in freely; it may cover up to half of the floor.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is arboreal and active at dusk, and a weak UVB source is recommended: a T5 tube that gives a UV index of about 3 on the uppermost leaves (UVB zone 2). Always provide shaded places where the frog can retreat.

FEEDING

Zhangixalus dennysi eats live insects and readily takes large feeder insects. Use crickets as the main food, supplemented with grasshoppers and cockroaches.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is active at night and at dusk and sits hidden among the leaves by day. The frog is large, powerful and jumps and glides wildly when startled, so it should be handled as little as possible.

NATIVE RANGE

China, Laos, Myanmar (Burma) and Vietnam.