herpy

FROGS

## Golden Mantella

# *Mantella aurantiaca*

*Mantella aurantiaca* is a small, bright orange frog of 20-26 mm that is found only in a few small areas in eastern Madagascar. It is diurnal, thrives in groups and is not difficult to keep when the enclosure is cool and humid. The species is threatened in the wild, so only captive-bred animals should be considered.

Family: Mantellidae  Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **20-26 mm**<br>snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **4-8 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and wetland** |
| Skin toxins in the wild | **Mild** |
| Skin toxins in captivity | **None**<br>Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **45 × 45 × 30 cm**<br>L × W × H for 4 adults |
| Temperature, day | **20-23 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **16-18 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-100%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Optional**<br>Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)** |
| Kept | **In groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Tadpoles in water** |
| Egg-laying site | **On the ground** |
| Sexually mature | **12-14 months** |
| Eggs per clutch | **12-30** |
| Hatching | **2-12 days** |
| Larval period | **42-98 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Algae/plants and complete diet** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | *Mantella aurantiaca* is small but does best with plenty of space, because the males are territorial and fight over breeding and feeding sites. |
| TEMPERATURE | By day the enclosure is kept at 20-23 °C with a drop to 16-18 °C at night. A few days outside the range do no harm, but longer periods of heat cause health problems. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | The figures given for humidity range from 60-70 % to 70-100 %, and the species tolerates a wide range as long as it always has access to water. Mist the enclosure daily, heavily in warm weather and less in cold periods. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | There must always be a shallow water dish or a shallow water area in the enclosure. Mantellas are poor swimmers, so the water must be so shallow that the frogs easily get out, and the water must not take up much of the enclosure. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The lighting is first and foremost for the plants. A need for UVB is not documented, but since the species in the wild is active in partial sun, a weak UVB tube is probably an advantage. UVB is therefore set to optional. |
| FEEDING | *Mantella aurantiaca* are insectivores and can take relatively large prey, up to about 6 mm. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Mantella aurantiaca* is diurnal and thrives in groups. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Madagascar. |