herpy

FROGS

Red-legged Kassina

Phlyctimantis maculatus

Phlyctimantis maculatus is a slender, nocturnal frog from East Africa and north-eastern South Africa with a grey-brown, dark-spotted back and bright red patches on the inside of the hind legs. It walks and runs rather than hops, climbs in branches at night and burrows down during the day. The species is hardy and can be kept in pairs or small groups, but the tadpoles take an unusually long time to become frogs.

Family: Hyperoliidae Former name: *Kassina maculata; Hylambates maculatus* Published 15 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**75 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water section** depth 5 cm
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**300**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Hatching	**3-5 days** at 24 °C
Larval period	**150-300 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Figures for a pair or a trio range from 60 × 45 × 60 cm to 60 × 75 × 60 cm, and an enclosure with a large floor area is preferable: *Phlyctimantis maculatus* lives mostly on the ground, but readily climbs up to about 50 cm.

TEMPERATURE
During the day the enclosure is kept at 22-27 °C with a warm end of about 26 °C and a cooler end of about 20-22 °C, and at night 20-23 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity is 60-70 % during the day and may rise to 70-80 % at night. Mist every evening with lukewarm water, preferably with a timer-controlled misting system, so that the humidity rises when the light goes off.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
The enclosure should have a water section covering about a quarter of the floor, with about 5 cm of water and low edges or a branch, so that the frogs easily get out again.

LIGHTING AND UVB
There is no agreement on whether UVB is necessary, but it is recommended, because powdered D3 alone is not a reliable solution.

FEEDING
P. maculatus eats insects and in the wild also smaller frogs. In the enclosure, crickets, grasshoppers, flies, moths and calci worms are used, and the feeder insects must be no larger than the distance between the frog's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
P. maculatus is shy and lies hidden or buried for most of the day. At night it becomes active, climbs and goes hunting. The males call with a loud, short croak that is repeated at intervals.

NATIVE RANGE
Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Eswatini.