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FROGS

Orange-legged Leaf Frog

Pithecopus hypochondrialis

Pithecopus hypochondrialis is a small, slender leaf frog from northern South America with bright orange flanks and thighs, barred in black, and large eyes with a vertical slit pupil. It is nocturnal, walks slowly through the branches instead of hopping and breeds in the enclosure if a rainy season is imitated.

Family: Phyllomedusidae Former name: *Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis* Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-5 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna, dry forest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Eggs per clutch	**38-100**
Hatching	**5-14 days** at 23-25 °C
Larval period	**40-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
For a pair or a small group of up to four animals, a tall enclosure of 45 × 45 × 60 cm (length × width × height) is a good size, and bigger is always better.

TEMPERATURE
Keep 24-28 °C by day. At night the temperature should fall a few degrees, to around 20-22 °C. A drop of 3-8 °C is normal for leaf frogs of this type.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 50-60 % by day and rise to around 70-80 % at night and after misting.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Provide a water bowl with a sloping edge or some smooth stones, so that the frog can easily get out again. The frog uses the bowl to sit in at night. Change the water every day, and use dechlorinated tap water or rainwater.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Provide 10-12 hours of light a day with a weak light source over one half of the enclosure and darkness at night. A fluorescent tube suited to plants is plenty, and it also provides light for the plants.

FEEDING
Pithecopus hypochondrialis is an insectivore and takes almost any feeder insect of suitable size: crickets, cockroaches, moths, flies and, now and then, waxworms. The feeder insect should be no wider than the frog's head.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Pithecopus hypochondrialis is calm and slow and sleeps by day. At night it is active, climbs, sits in the water bowl and hunts.

NATIVE RANGE
Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.