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FROGS

Four-lined Tree Frog

Polypedates leucomystax

Polypedates leucomystax is a slender, nocturnal tree frog of 4-9 cm from South-East Asia, which lays its eggs in a foam nest by the water. It is adaptable, readily lives close to people and is easy to keep, but does not tolerate heat above 29 °C. Breeding is triggered in a rain chamber.

Family: Rhacophoridae Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-9 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest, rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**23-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
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	**100-400**
Hatching	**3-4 days**
Larval period	**49-70 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Two adult *P. leucomystax* can be kept in a glass enclosure of 45 × 45 × 60 cm, which is enough for 2-4 animals.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the enclosure at 23-27 °C during the day and 18-22 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Keep the humidity at 60-70 %. This is managed with a hand sprayer, fogging system or rain system, several times a day as needed.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	*P. leucomystax* must always have access to clean water in a large, shallow dish that is easy to clean and that the frog can easily climb out of.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species does not need any light other than what the plants require. There is no documentation that it needs UVB, but a weak UVB source can be used for the plants and also has an antibacterial effect.
FEEDING	*P. leucomystax* is an insectivore, and crickets can be the staple food, supplemented several times a month with waxworms, silkworms, moths, flies, small earthworms and small cockroaches.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*P. leucomystax* is nocturnal and sits hidden among plants and branches during the day, but readily snaps up a feeder insect that passes by.
NATIVE RANGE	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.