herpy

FROGS

Tonkin Bug-eyed Frog

Theloderma corticale

Theloderma corticale is a nocturnal, semi-aquatic frog from the forests of northern Vietnam, Laos and southern China. The warty, green and black-blotched skin resembles moss and lichen so well that the frog almost disappears in the enclosure. It wants cool and wet conditions and does not tolerate heat, but is on the other hand easy to get to breed.

Family: Rhacophoridae Former name: *Rhacophorus corticalis* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**6-9 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest, montane forest and rocky terrain**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 50 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**18-23 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**80-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 5-10 cm
Water temperature	**17-22 °C**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Winter rest	**13-16 °C** 4-22 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Sexually mature	**8-10 months**
Eggs per clutch	**6-47**
Hatching	**9-22 days**
Larval period	**75-180 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	*Theloderma corticale* needs an aquaterrarium where a large part of the floor, or the whole floor, stands under water.
TEMPERATURE	Heat is the species' greatest enemy. The ideal is 16-23 °C, and down to about 10 °C is fine, while anything above 25 °C is a warning sign, and temperatures above 27 °C can kill the frogs.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity must be high: over 80% and never below 60%, otherwise the frogs may dry out. The females lay eggs at 80-90%. The large water surface keeps humidity up by itself, so the frogs do not need misting very often.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water section is the species' home. The water should be 5-10 cm deep, and deeper water also works. The frogs must be able to sit in the water and easily climb onto cork or roots.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The frog is nocturnal and has no documented need for UVB. A low-output UVB tube for shade-dwelling species (Ferguson zone 1) can be used and provides the small UV index that can support the day-night rhythm, but it is optional.
FEEDING	*T. corticale* eats insects: crickets with a good gut load, dubia roaches, waxworm larvae, soldier fly larvae and small hornworms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Theloderma corticale* is calm and hides by day in tubes, caves and among plants. A few minutes after the light is switched off, it becomes active.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam, Laos and China.