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FROGS

Milk Frog

Trachycephalus typhonius

Trachycephalus typhonius is a large, nocturnal tree frog with warty skin and golden eye rims. It lives over an enormous area from Central America to northern Argentina, from rainforest to savanna and gardens. The skin secretes a white substance that stings the mucous membranes, and experience of keeping it is limited.

Family: Hylidae Former name: *Phrynohyas venulosa* Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

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

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**100-1,500**
Hatching	**1-2 days**
Larval period	**21-75 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	The care of *Trachycephalus typhonius* is based on the closely related *Trachycephalus resinifictrix*, which is a similarly large, nocturnal tree frog.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the enclosure at 24-28 °C by day and 18-22 °C at night. Related tree frogs are kept at 24-29 °C by day with a night drop of typically 3-6 °C. There is no winter rest period.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 60-90 % with a rise after misting.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Put a large, stable water bowl in the enclosure. The bowl must be large enough for the frog to sit in, and the water must be shallow, so that the animal can easily get out again.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Provide 10-12 hours of light a day, first and foremost for the plants. The frog sleeps by day and is most active in the dark, so it does not need strong light. A low level of UVB helps the frog absorb the calcium in the food.
FEEDING	The frog takes most things it can manage: crickets, houseflies, blowflies, cockroaches, worms and other insects. Crickets can make up the bulk of the diet, and the other feeder insects are given in rotation.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Trachycephalus typhonius* is nocturnal and sleeps by day in hiding, often high up, and becomes active when the light is switched off.
NATIVE RANGE	Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina.