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Asian Floating Frogs (*Occidozyga* spp.)

Buoyant and Basic

Also known as the Java(n) frogs, or the puddle frogs, the Asian floating frogs are a genus of relatively small frogs consisting of approximately 12 species ranging from southern to southeastern Asia. They can be quite variable in coloration, ranging from olive brown, reddish brown, to yellowish-brown, often with a lighter yellow, greenish, to orangish dorsal stripe running from the tip of the snout to the vent. Asian floating frogs are highly aquatic species of frogs, as their common names imply, and also have short, compact bodies and highly set eyes on their heads. Although they are not strong swimmers, floating frogs earn their name from their habit of inhaling air at the surface to help maintain buoyancy. The green floating frog, *O. lima*, is perhaps the most frequently kept and imported of the floating frog species, often making for hardy, easily kept pet frog species that can be acquired from aquarium or some reptile specialty stores.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Suborder: Neobatrachia

Family: Dicroglossidae

Genus: *Occidozyga*

Species: *Occidozyga* spp.*

*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.

Lifespan and Longevity

Captive longevity for these frogs is uncertain, although if provided the proper care, floating frogs can attain longevity of at least to 5 to 6 years or potentially more.

Distribution and Habitat

The Asian floating frogs are found in aquatic to semi-aquatic environments in southern to southeastern Asia, from India, southern China, Java, and Laos to Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia. They may occur in tropical to sub-tropical seasonally flooded wetlands, grasslands, agricultural land, ditches, ponds, marshes or other bodies of water within this range.

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Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC). Some species may be IUCN Data Deficient or otherwise Not Evaluated (NE).

Legal and Regulatory Status (*Subject to Change)

Consult with your local, municipal, and state ordinances and regulations for any ownership restrictions.

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner.

Size

Floating frogs are relatively small frogs that typically range in size from 1 ½ to 2 inches as adults in snout to vent length.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10 to 15 gallon or other similarly sized glass aquarium or other enclosure is recommended for these frogs. Although they are mostly aquatic, care should be taken to prevent these frogs from potentially escaping. Floating frogs are almost entirely aquatic, and do not require dry land space, but should still be provided basking and hiding opportunities in and out of the water in the form of a 50 %, or half and half dry land to aquatic space using sturdily mounted cork bark, artificial plants and foliage, driftwood, or other furnishings. Also be sure to provide at least three to six inches of clean water in depth, but ensure the water is not too deep, as well as provide an adequate filter to help maintain water cleanliness and clarity that does not create a strong current. Be sure to still provide adequate air space in the enclosure. Any filters that are used should also be adequately sealed to prevent clogging or escape as well. A substrate is not required, but can help to maintain sturdiness of any furnishings in the enclosure and should be non-ingestible, but can include aquarium gravel or similar substrates.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Asian floating frogs have simple and undemanding heating and lighting requirements in captivity, and do not require additional UVA/UVB lighting, although providing it in moderated amounts can be greatly beneficial for their health, immune system, and overall wellness. This lighting may be required, however, if using live plants in the aquarium. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, submersible water heater, or UTH (under tank heating element). Maintain these frogs within a water temperature thermal gradient and range of 78 to 80 degrees F. Do not exceed 85 degrees F. More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous; In the wild, Asian floating frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. They will occasionally catch and consume other smaller vertebrates as well. In captivity, feed floating frogs a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. These frogs also require additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation 1 to 2 times weekly or as otherwise directed for optimal health and development. This is in order to prevent Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) and

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other growth and nutritional deficiencies. Their feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Use care as to not overfeed them, as obesity and other health related issues can become an issue. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

Floating frogs may tolerate some level of careful but deliberate handling, but are small, aquatic, and delicate amphibians. Any handling overall should be done sparingly, if at all. As with all amphibians, their skin is soft and permeable; Wash hands thoroughly and avoid any lotions, creams, or oils before handling any amphibian. Using an aquarium net to move them whenever necessary is most recommended.

****Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens****

Contact

Authored by Eric Roscoe. For any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact the Madison Area Herpetological Society at info@madisonherps.org

Disclaimer: Note that the information provided in these, or any care sheets, are not intended to be all-exhaustive, and further research and care should always be sought and provided when it comes to any species one may prospectively be interested in. These care sheets are also not intended to serve as substitutes for professional veterinary medical care and husbandry should any animal require it. Always seek proper and professional veterinary care for any animal should the need arise, and be prepared ahead of time for any and all husbandry costs and expenses that may occur with any animal beyond the initial purchase. Any animal owned is ultimately a matter of personal/individual care and responsibility. MAHS cannot make any claims or guarantees regarding any information in this care sheet therein. This care sheet may be reprinted or redistributed only in its entirety, including any and all MAHS logos and disclaimers.

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