



*Quirks and Chaos Blog

Oriental fire bellied Toad (*Bombina orientalis*)

Hardy, Oriental Trinkets

The Oriental fire bellied toad is a small, semi aquatic and relatively primitive anuran with a green, warty skin with dark mottling, and a distinct bright red to reddish orange underside, which earns them the name of fire bellied toads. These toads can arch their heads and bodies upwards to display their brightly colored underside to potential predators, which is known as the unken reflex. Fire bellied toads are a very inexpensive and hardy amphibian to maintain for the beginning enthusiast or pet owner.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Suborder: Archaeobatrachia

Family: Bombinatoridae

Genus: Bombina

Species: *Bombina orientalis**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, Oriental fire bellied toads can attain longevity of up to 10 to 15 years, or potentially more.

Distribution and Habitat

Fire bellied toads are indigenous to eastern Asia, including southern Russia, Japan, Korea, and China.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner.

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Size

Adult Oriental fire bellied toads reach 1 ½ to 2 inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10 gallon aquarium, terrarium, or other enclosure is suitable for a pair of these toads. They can also be kept communally in proportionally larger housing. A portion of the enclosure should consist of water at around 4 to 6 inches in depth on a gravel substrate. An appropriate filter can be used to help maintain water clarity and cleanliness. Also provide naturalistic basking areas, or other access to dry land in the form of artificial logs, cork bark or slabs, natural or artificial foliage, or rocks. Enclosures should be spot cleaned, sterilized, and cleaned regularly.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Fire bellied toads 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. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, or UTH (under tank heating element). Fire bellied toads can be maintained at adequate temperatures of 75 to 78 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, Oriental fire-bellied toads are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, worms, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed Oriental fire-bellied toads a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, earthworms, redworms, and waxworms. They can also be fed microfauna such as springtails, isopods, or fruit fly cultures as well if small enough. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. Fire-bellied toads 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 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

Oriental fire bellied toads are delicate and sensitive amphibians, and handling should be avoided or kept to a minimum whenever possible. These toads also possess toxic or irritating skin secretions as well.

****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

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