



*Ashley Schultz

Golden Gliding Tree Frog (*Polypedates leucomystax*)

Great Golden Gliders

Golden gliding treefrogs are a relatively medium sized treefrog species with large, distinctive suction cup like toe pads present. Background color of this species can vary from tan, light to dark brown, brownish-orange, grayish, to yellowish orange, and can be mostly solid colored to faintly striped with four darker stripes running from the head, down the body. The head is also somewhat large and angular as well. Golden gliding treefrogs also have many other common names including Golden treefrog, Four Lined treefrog, Common treefrog, and Asian treefrog.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Suborder: Neobatrachia

Family: Rhacophoridae

Genus: Polypedates

Species: *Polypedates leucomystax**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, golden gliding tree frogs can attain longevity in captivity of 5 to 8 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

Golden gliding treefrogs are a widely ranging species found in the dry, tropical to sub-tropical rainforests to lowland forests, swamps, shrublands, and other wetlands over much of Asia including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, to Vietnam among many other Asian countries of origin.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

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 to Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Golden gliding treefrogs typically are typically 1 ½ to 3 ½ inches as adult frogs.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10 to 20 gallon tall glass aquarium or terrarium is suitable for multiple golden gliding tree frogs. They can be housed communally up to 6 to 8 frogs depending on the size of the enclosure. Provide several horizontal perches for the frogs to climb and rest on. Provide additional live or artificial foliage, logs, cork bark, or other cage furnishings for added security and aesthetic appeal. Substrates that retain some moisture and humidity should be used such as paper towels, or sphagnum moss, cypress mulch, coconut fibers, or potting soil for more naturalistic enclosures. Substrate should be pesticide free. Provide a large, shallow water dish in the enclosure and change at least 2 to 3 times weekly. Spot clean daily.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Golden gliding treefrogs 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). Maintain these frogs at higher humidity between 60 to 80%. Mist the enclosure at least once daily. Maintain these frogs at ambient temperatures of between 75 to 85 degrees F, but do not allow for temperatures to drop below or rise substantially above this range. Nighttime temperatures can be allowed to drop to around 65 to 75 degrees F., and a 10 to 12 hour light cycle can also be provided. 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, golden gliding tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed golden gliding treefrogs a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. They can also be fed microfauna including springtails, isopods, and fruit fly cultures. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. Golden gliding treefrogs 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

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As with most amphibians, golden gliding treefrogs are rather delicate and fragile amphibians that should only be handled when necessary. They are not the ideal candidate as an amphibian species to be handled frequently. As with all amphibians, their skin is soft and permeable, and thus can easily absorb any chemicals or oils; Wash hands thoroughly and avoid any lotions, creams, or oils before handling any amphibian.

****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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