



Vietnamese Mossy Frog *(Theloderma corticale)*

Mysterious, Mobile Moss?

The Vietnamese mossy frog is a highly unusual frog species in that they are heavily cryptic in their coloration and appearance, having green to greenish-brown or reddish brown coloration that highly resembles a mossy rock. This species, although not a treefrog, also has large, sticky toe pads as well. Vietnamese mossy frogs are primarily nocturnal and aquatic, spending much of their time hidden beneath or within rocks, plants, or other debris. In addition to their cryptic coloration used for camouflage, Vietnamese mossy frogs may also curl into a ball and feign death as well.

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: *Theloderma*

Species: *Theloderma corticale**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

Vietnamese mossy frogs are still fairly new to the pet industry, but captive mossy frogs can be expected to live for at least 5 to 8 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

These highly unusual frogs are found in the higher mountain regions of northern Vietnam and possibly Laos and China, where they inhabit the mountainous streams, flooded forests, and caves.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

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Experience Level Required

Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

As adults, Vietnamese mossy frogs typically reach up to 3 to 4 inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10 to 15 gallon tall glass aquarium, terrarium, or other enclosure is more than suitable for housing one, or a pair of these frogs. Being semi aquatic, Vietnamese mossy frogs will also require a semi aquatic setup, with about 3 inches of clean fresh water filtered with an appropriate submersible filtration system that can be biological and/or mechanical. Substrate is optional for these frogs, but if it is used, appropriately sized gravel or river stones can be used. Additional furnishings, foraging, and hiding opportunities should also be provided in the enclosure, including rocks and logs, live or artificial plants and other foliage, clay flower pots, driftwood, vines, and/or caves. There should also be opportunities for the frog(s) to be able to bask or completely emerge from the water.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Vietnamese mossy frogs have fairly 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 Vietnamese mossy frogs at higher humidity from around 70 to 80%, and be sure to mist the enclosure at least once daily. Also provide a 12 to 14 hour light cycle if overhead lights are used. Overall, this species can tolerate temperatures between 65 and 80 degrees F, but temperatures should not be allowed to greatly exceed or fall below this range. 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, Vietnamese mossy frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed mossy frogs 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. Mossy 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 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

Vietnamese mossy frogs are a shy and delicate amphibian species that should be handled sparingly, or only when necessary. As with all amphibians, their skin is soft and permeable; Wash hands thoroughly and avoid any lotions, creams, or oils before handling any amphibian. Handling overall should be minimized with most amphibians. They are, however, a fairly easily

kept species for both the beginning and advanced enthusiast, and can make for very intriguing display animals as a result.

****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.

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