



*Luke Balsavich

Tiger Leg Tree frog (*Phyllomedusa tomopterna*)

Tiger Beauties of the Frogs

This is a relatively small to medium sized treefrog species with large, distinctive suction cup like toe pads present. Background color ranges from light to dark green or sometimes turquoise or greenish-blue. The pupils are typically smoky gray in color, and the most obvious diagnostic feature of this frog are its vibrantly colored black and orange barring present on the interior facing portion of its limbs, thigh, groin region, and sides. Other common names for this treefrog can also include the barred treefrog, barred leaf frog, tiger leg monkey treefrog, and tiger leg frogs.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Suborder: Neobatrachia

Family: Hylidae

Subfamily: Phyllomedusinae

Genus: Phyllomedusa

Species: *Phyllomedusa tomopterna**

*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, tiger leg treefrogs can attain longevity of 10 to 15 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

Tiger leg treefrogs are indigenous to the tropical to sub-tropical rainforests, lowland wetlands, and swamps of South America, including but not limited to Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

Experience Level Required

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Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Adult tiger leg treefrogs typically are 1 ½ to 2 inches in size, although they can become slighter larger, or up to 2 ½ inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 15 to 20 gallon tall glass aquarium or terrarium is suitable for multiple tiger leg 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, 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

Tiger-leg tree 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. 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 tree frogs at higher humidity at around 50 to 80%, and be sure to mist the enclosure at least once daily. Maintain these frogs at ambient temperatures of between 75 to 82 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. 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, tiger leg tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed these 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. Tiger leg 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

Tiger leg 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

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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.

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