



Tomato Frogs *Genus Dyscophus sp.*

- Tomato frogs consist of about 3 species of primarily terrestrial frogs endemic to the rainforests and woodlands of the island of Madagascar near Africa.
- Tomato frogs are medium to large pudgy bodied frogs that range in color from reddish, reddish orange, to reddish brown with a paler yellowish underside, and one dark stripe running from behind each eye.
- If provided the proper care, Tomato frogs can attain longevity of 5-10 years or more.

Size

Adult Tomato frogs range in size from 2 ½ to 4”.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10-15 gallon long aquarium or terrarium is suitable for these frogs. 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 coconut fibers, sphagnum moss, cypress mulch, or potting soil for more naturalistic enclosures. Tomato frogs will burrow into their substrate, which should be provided. Substrate should also be pesticide free. Provide a large, shallow water dish in the enclosure and change at least 2-3 times weekly. Spot clean daily. Also mist the enclosure at least once every day to 3 days.

Tomato frogs do not require additional UV lighting, but can be provided a low wattage daylight spectrum, under tank heating element, or florescent form of lighting. Maintain these frogs at ambient temperatures of between 75 and 80 degrees F, but do not allow for temperatures to drop below or rise above this range. A 12-14 hour light cycle can also be provided.

Feeding/Diet

Tomato frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch.

These frogs in captivity should be fed 2-3 times weekly. Feed them crickets, roaches, earthworms, and/or mealworms. Tomato frogs may also eat pinky mice, but offer these sparingly, if at all. Do not overfeed these frogs, or obesity and other health issues may become an issue. Feeder insects should be gut loaded (provided a quality diet containing vitamins and minerals). Dust insects with vitamin D3 and calcium supplements 1-2 times weekly for added nutritional value.

Handling

As with most amphibians, tomato frogs do not enjoy excessive amounts of handling, and can secrete a sticky, potentially irritating skin secretion when handled roughly. 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.

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