



## Yellow Spotted Climbing Toad (*Pedostibes hosii*)

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### **Colorful Climbers!**

Also sometimes known as the Asian Yellow Spotted Climbing Toad, or Common Tree Toad, members of this anuran genus are the only truly arboreal true toad species, being characterized by relatively long, dexterous limbs, feet, and digits for climbing and gripping twigs and branches. Approximately five or six other *Pedostibes* species are also recognized from southern to southeastern Asia. Although they are largely arboreal, this species has been observed and recorded coming down to the forest floor during the nighttime hours to feed on smaller invertebrates. These toads range in color from light to dark lime green, turquoise blue-green, to grayish green with warty skin and varying amounts of yellow spots, flecks, and streaks along the limbs and body. Yellow spotted climbing toads are a bold, attractive, and easily kept species of anuran that has been most frequently imported, until recently, from Malaysia. However, changes in Malaysia's wildlife possession and importation regulations have further ensured that any specimens in the U.S. and elsewhere are now captive bred and born, although the practice with this species still remains relatively new within the herpetocultural hobby and industry.

### **Taxonomy**

**Life:** All living, physical, and animate entities

**Domain:** Eukaryota

**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Phylum/Sub Phylum:** Chordata/Vertebrata

**Class:** Amphibia

**Order:** Anura

**Suborder:** Neobatrachia

**Family:** Bufonidae

**Genus:** *Pedostibes*

**Species:** *Pedostibes hosii*\*

*\*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

### **Lifespan and Longevity**

Captive longevity for this species is not yet fully or well-known and understood, but they do have the potential of reaching at least 5 years or potentially more from what is known thus far about their captive husbandry.

### **Distribution and Habitat**

The yellow spotted climbing toad is a unique, semi-arboreal species of toad that is indigenous to

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extreme southern Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo and Sumatra, and Indonesia. This species has a fragmented distribution, and probably occurs in additional, undocumented areas as well. Within its range, this species occupies the dense, lowland tropical to sub-tropical rainforests and other forests amongst low foliage or the lower portions of the forest canopy near forested rivers, streams, lowland pools, marshes, swamplands, and other bodies of water. This species is also said to be intolerant of modified and/or human developed habitats.

### **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**

Intermediate/Moderate.

### **Size**

This is a medium to large sized toad species, with adults typically reaching 3 to 4 inches in size, although some adults have the potential to reach larger sizes up to 5 ½ inches.

### **Housing and Enclosure**

Yellow spotted climbing toad housing and enclosures can be rather simple. Provide a secure, escape proof and well ventilated glass enclosure, or equivalent sized 30 gallon tall terrarium. Providing adequate humidity is important with these toads, and should be at 50 to 70%. This species does not tolerate stagnant conditions well. These toads can be housed together in pairs provided adequate space and resources are given. Next, a substrate that retains some levels of humidity is recommended, and can include cypress mulch, chemical and pesticide free potting soil, sphagnum moss, and/or coconut husk fibers. Being an arboreal species, yellow spotted climbing toads will enjoy ample furnishings and climbing opportunities in the enclosure including wood and rock hides, cork bark tubes, artificial vines, plants, and other foliage, and vertically, diagonally, and horizontally oriented branches. Also be sure to provide a large, shallow water dish as well for these toads to enter.

### **Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity**

Yellow spotted climbing toads 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).

These toads can tolerate a wide range of environmental temperatures from 65 degrees F to 85 degrees F, but most ideal ambient temperatures are around room temperature, or 70 to 75 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**

*Primarily Insectivorous*; Yellow spotted climbing toads are primarily insectivorous in the wild, and their natural history is reportedly such that they will descend from arboreal situations to locate food including insects, worms, other invertebrates, and occasionally other smaller animals they can catch and swallow. In captivity, Yellow spotted climbing toads will accept a variety of

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feeder insects of appropriate size including crickets, roaches, mealworms, waxworms, hornworms, and superworms. The occasional pre killed small, pre-killed rodent can also be provided, but sparingly, if at all. Most adult toads can be fed 3 to 4 times weekly, and any insect food items should be gutloaded and dusted with commercially available calcium, vitamin D3, and other vitamin and mineral supplementation for optimal health, well-being, and nutrition. 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**

Yellow spotted climbing toads can be handled, but as with most amphibians, in a limited amount. They should be allowed free movement among one's hands as they use their long, dexterous limbs to climb or move about. Many terrestrial toad species are more tolerant of drier or varied environmental conditions, but can still be susceptible to any chemicals, oils, or lotions that may be present on human hands. It is still important to retain moisture when handling any amphibian, including this species.

**\*\*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](mailto:info@madisonherps.org)

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