



*Ashley Schultz

American Green Tree frog *(Hyla/Dryophytes cinerea)*

Emerald Gems of the Americas!

The American green treefrog is a relatively small treefrog species indigenous to the southeastern United States with a ground, or dorsum color ranging from light to dark green, olive or olive brown, yellowish with variable amounts of yellow spots or flecking. Toe pads are large and well developed, and a white or pale colored lateral stripe runs from the jaws, along the laterals, or sides. During the day, these treefrogs also utilize several different defensive behaviors to avoid predators, including their ability to remain cryptic and well hidden among the bark and leaves in which they live amongst.

As with many other treefrogs, American green treefrogs also have some color changing abilities as well depending on the surface they are on, and the temperature and environment. American green treefrogs will frequently call during or after rain. As with most treefrogs, these treefrogs also have enlarged toe pads used for climbing and gripping onto branches and other surfaces lending to their arboreal or tree dwelling lifestyles. As pets in captivity, American green treefrogs are relatively simple and inexpensive pets to maintain for the novice and advanced enthusiast alike.

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

Genus: Hyla/Dryophytes

Species: *Hyla/Dryophytes cinerea**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, American green treefrogs can attain longevity of up to 5 to 6 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

American green treefrogs are indigenous to the Southeastern United States. During the breeding season, American green treefrogs can be found in and around swamplands, coastal plains regions, and weedy pond and lake margins. They are also often found in and around gardens and residential areas as well.

Origin/History

Dryophytes cinereus (Schneider, 1799).

American green treefrogs would become popular, hardy, and relatively easy to care for pet frogs, although the timing of when they first began to be kept in the pet trade is not known. These small treefrogs, however, have been in the pet trade for many decades. They would, and continue to be fairly commonly available, both from wild-collected and captive-bred sources at pet stores and reptile expos.

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner.

Size

Adult American green tree frogs typically reach up to 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Enclosure System: Primarily Moist-Arboreal. 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 one to four green tree frogs. Provide several horizontal perches for the frog(s) to climb and rest on. Provide additional live or artificial foliage, logs, cork bark, or other cage furnishings for added security and aesthetic appeal. American green treefrogs enjoy moderate to high humidity. Substrates that retain some moisture and humidity should be used such as paper towels, or sphagnum moss, cypress mulch, gravel, 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

American green treefrogs can be maintained at ambient and heated temperatures between 70 and 82 degrees F. Mist the enclosure at least once daily. American green 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). 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. American green treefrogs can typically be maintained at, or around 50 to 60% humidity.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous; In the wild, American green tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed green 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. Green 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

American green tree frogs will tolerate some level of careful but deliberate handling, but are small and delicate amphibians. Any handling overall should be done sparingly. All amphibians breathe and respire through their skin, as well as absorb water through this means. It is therefore important to avoid wearing any chemicals or lotions on your hands, which can be potentially harmful or even fatal to amphibians. It is also important to wash or rinse hands thoroughly, and ensure they are adequately moistened before and after handling any amphibians in order to prevent them from drying out.

****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

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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. We 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.

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