



*Ashley Schultz

Golden Gliding Tree frog *[Polypedates leucomystax]*

Foam Nesting Golden Gliders

Golden gliding treefrogs are a relatively medium sized treefrog species with large, distinctive suction cup like toe pads present. Background color of this species can vary from tan, light to dark brown, brownish-orange, grayish, to yellowish orange, and can be mostly solid colored to faintly striped with four darker stripes running from the head, down the body. The head is also somewhat large and angular as well.

During their breeding and reproductive season, these frogs will form a large, foam nest surrounding their eggs overhanging a pool or other body of water, in which the tadpoles hatch and develop inside the foam nest, and then drop down into the water below. Golden gliding treefrogs also have many other common names including Golden treefrog, Four Lined treefrog, Common treefrog, and Asian treefrog. Golden gliding treefrogs are a popular and readily available species of treefrog which can be relatively easily kept by the reptile and amphibian enthusiast provided the correct diets, and overall care and environmental conditions are met.

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: Polypedates

Species: *Polypedates leucomystax**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, golden gliding tree frogs can attain longevity in captivity of 5 to 8 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

The golden treefrog is a relatively small to medium sized treefrog with a wide distribution over much of southern to southeastern Asia. Within this range, this common species ranges from

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Malaysia, to Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. They can occur in a wide variety of habitats, from tropical to sub-tropical dry or moist lowland forests, mountain forests, shrublands, seasonally wet or flooded grasslands, rivers and streams, lakes, marshes, swamplands, and springs, and other temporary to permanent wetlands and bodies of water. They also occur among plantations, irrigated croplands and agricultural areas, gardens, and even urban to suburban areas.

Origin/History

Polypedates leucomystax (Gravenhorst, 1829).

Little is known about the history of golden gliding treefrogs in the pet trade, although these frogs would be hardy, inexpensive and fairly easy to breed species in captivity.

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner to Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Golden gliding treefrogs typically are typically 1 ½ to 3 ½ inches as adult frogs.

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 multiple golden gliding 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, coconut fibers, 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

Golden gliding 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). Maintain these frogs at higher humidity between 60 to 80%. Mist the enclosure at least once daily. Maintain these frogs at ambient temperatures of between 75 to 85 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., and 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, golden gliding tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed golden gliding 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. Golden gliding 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

As with most amphibians, golden gliding 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. 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

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:

Eric.S.Roscoe@gmail.com

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.

***Copyright, 2023**