

BEAUTIFUL MANTELLA

Mantella pulchra

Parker, 1925



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Family: Mantellidae

No recognized subspecies



APPENDIX II

RARE



NEAR THREATENED

Identification : Body length between 2.1 and 2.5 cm. Back and top of head gray-brown with light stripe above eyes. Upper limbs and flanks bright green, rest of flanks black, rest of limbs brown. Horseshoe marking on chin. Small blue spots on belly.

Range: The species is endemic to north-eastern Madagascar, in an area going from Mananara Nord to An'Ala.

Habitat : Only occurs in swampy rainforests, from 300 to 950 m.

Behavior: The species is active during the day and found on the ground. It feeds on tiny invertebrates. Eggs are laid on vegetation near or above water.

Status in the wild: This species has a very fragmented range. It is still declining because of intensive deforestation and habitat degradation.

In captivity: This species isn't well known from zoos, being displayed mostly in American collections and in 3 European zoos. It's also kept in private collections (probably commoner there than in zoos) and mostly bred by private keepers.