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POISON DART FROGS

Brilliant-thighed Poison Frog

Allobates femoralis

Allobates femoralis is a small, dark frog of 3-4 cm from the Amazon and the Guiana Shield with an orange-yellow spot behind the arm and a crescent-shaped orange spot on the thigh. It is diurnal and ground-dwelling, the males defend territories with a loud call, and the courtship is one of the longest among poison frogs. The species belongs to the family Aromobatidae and is regarded as non-toxic.

Family: Aromobatidae Former name: *Epipedobates femoralis; Phyllobates femoralis; Dendrobates femoralis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**8-20**
Hatching	**15-20 days**
Larval period	**40-50 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair of *Allobates femoralis* needs a glass terrarium of at least 60 × 40 × 40 cm. The species lives near the ground, so floor area counts most, but the males like to climb a little to call.

TEMPERATURE
By day the temperature should be 25-28 °C and at night 21-24 °C, that is 3-4 degrees lower. The daily swing corresponds to conditions in French Guiana and promotes breeding.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be high: 70-80 % in the middle of the day and up to 100 % morning and evening.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Provide a shallow glass dish of about 10 cm in diameter with 1-2 cm of water, which the frogs can easily climb out of. The male also uses it when he is to deposit the tadpoles.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The light is mainly for the plants. Provide 12 hours of light a day, for example from 7 to 19 h. Fluorescent tubes or LEDs of around 6,500 K give natural colours and good plant growth.

FEEDING
Allobates femoralis feeds on small insects. In the enclosure the staple diet consists of wingless fruit flies, supplemented with springtails, very small crickets, small wax moth larvae and meadow plankton.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Allobates femoralis is diurnal, and the males are territorial.

NATIVE RANGE
Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru and Suriname.