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POISON DART FROGS

Pleasing Poison Frog

Ameerega bassleri

Ameerega bassleri is a diurnal poison frog of just under 4 cm from the humid forests at the eastern foot of the Andes in northern Peru. The male guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles to the water, and the species must be kept cooler than most poison frogs. Little is known about its care, and the species is vulnerable in the wild.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Epipedobates bassleri; Dendrobates bassleri; Phobobates bassleri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Skin toxins in the wild	**Mild**
Skin toxins in captivity	**None** Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 50 × 55 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**18-21 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-17 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**In leaf axils (e.g. bromeliads)**
Sexually mature	**12-13 months**
Eggs per clutch	**40**
Hatching	**10 days**
Larval period	**50-60 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Ameerega bassleri*. The species lives in humid forest by streams at 300-1,200 m, where the air is cooler than for most poison frogs.

TEMPERATURE
The species must not be kept too warm. By day 18-21 °C suits, and at night the temperature should fall 4-6 °C, to about 13-17 °C. The difference between the seasons is only 1-2 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity must be 70-100 %. Morning and evening it is close to 100 % with mist, while around midday it may fall to about 70 %.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
A water bowl with 1-2 cm of water must be in the vivarium, and a permanent water area or small containers are used for the tadpoles when breeding. Use rainwater or reverse osmosis water and change the water several times a week.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species lives on the forest floor, where little light reaches. LED light with a plant-suitable spectrum and a 10-12 hour day length is enough.

FEEDING
The species takes the usual small feeder insects: fruit flies, springtails, newly hatched crickets, the smallest waxworm larvae and sweep-netted small insects from the meadow.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is diurnal and lives on the ground. The male is territorial and calls to defend his area, so the animals need many hiding places and broken lines of sight.

NATIVE RANGE
Peru.