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POISON DART FROGS

Yurimaguas Poison Frog

Ameerega hahneli

Ameerega hahneli is a small, diurnal poison frog of 17-22 mm with pale side stripes and a blue belly, which lives in the rainforest leaf litter across large parts of the Amazon lowlands. The male carries the tadpoles to running water, and the tadpoles need current in the water. The species is common in the wild but rare in captivity.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Epipedobates hahneli; Dendrobates hahneli*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**17-22 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
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 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**23-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-21 °C**
Humidity	**65-90%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Sexually mature	**7-12 months**
Eggs per clutch	**6-33**
Hatching	**4-16 days**
Larval period	**55-65 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
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

Only limited knowledge exists about the care of *Ameerega hahneli*, and the requirements may vary between the different forms and possible hidden species.

TEMPERATURE

Ameerega hahneli needs 23-25 °C by day and 19-21 °C at night. Fluorescent tubes outside the terrarium can supply both light and the necessary warmth. Above 28 °C there is a risk of stress; cool with a fan and extra spraying.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity must be 65-90 %.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

There must always be a little water to go to, for example in the drainage channel or a shallow water bowl with 1-2 cm of water. In the dry season the channel is not emptied, so the animals still have access to water.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The light can be fluorescent tubes or LED with a plant-suitable spectrum for 10-12 hours. UVB is not necessary; a weak UVB bulb (Ferguson zone 1) can be used when there are hides so that the animals can withdraw from the light.

FEEDING

The small fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) is the most important food. Adults also take the large fruit fly (*Drosophila hydei*), but often skip it because it is a little too big.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is diurnal and lives on the ground, but is most active early in the morning and late in the afternoon and evening; the rest of the day it is shyer.

NATIVE RANGE

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