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POISON DART FROGS

Niceforo's Poison Frog

Ameerega ingeri

Ameerega ingeri is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 20-27 mm from the foothills of the Andes in southern Colombia. The back is uniformly dark, the flanks have dark blue spots, and there are bright orange spots in the armpits and on the calves. The species is hardly ever kept, so care is based on the climate of its range and on related species.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates ingeri; Epipedobates ingeri; Phyllobates ingeri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-27 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 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	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °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**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**4-16**
Hatching	**10-22 days**
Larval period	**70-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Data Deficient (DD)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Almost nothing is known about the care of *Ameerega ingeri*, and the species is hardly ever kept.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the enclosure at 24-26 °C by day, and let the temperature fall to 20-22 °C at night. The temperature must not exceed 28 °C, because frogs tolerate heat poorly.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 70-80 % in the middle of the day and close to 100 % in the morning and evening. A rain system or a fogger with a timer is easiest; otherwise mist two to three times a day with reverse-osmosis water or rainwater.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Provide a shallow water dish with 1-2 cm of water, so that the frogs can easily climb out of it, and with stones or moss at the edge. Use reverse-osmosis water, rainwater or dechlorinated tap water, and change it often.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The lighting is primarily for the plants: 10-12 hours a day with LED lighting with a plant-suitable spectrum. It is not documented that *Ameerega ingeri* needs UVB.
FEEDING	In the wild *Ameerega ingeri* lives mostly on small ants and other small arthropods from the leaf litter.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Ameerega ingeri* is diurnal and most active in the morning. It lives on the ground in the leaf litter, but likes to sleep on leaves some way above the ground, so plants with broad leaves are an advantage.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia.