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POISON DART FROGS

Ruby Poison Frog

Ameerega parvula

Ameerega parvula is a small, diurnal poison frog of 18-24 mm from the rainforest leaf litter in the western Amazon lowlands and at the foot of the Andes. The back is black with dark red spots, and the underside is marbled blue and black. The species is rarely kept, and little is known about its care.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-24 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	**40 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-26 °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	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Ameerega parvula*.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature is 25-26 °C, and at night it is lowered by 4-5 degrees to 20-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is 70-80 % by day, with a dip to about 70 % around midday, and close to 100 % morning and evening, preferably with mist.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	A shallow water bowl with 1-2 cm of water lets the frogs drink and is necessary if breeding is to take place, because the male deposits the tadpoles there. The bowl must have a slope or stones so that a frog can climb out again.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The light should first and foremost give the plants a day-night rhythm of about 12 hours, and an LED plant lamp is enough for that. UVB is not necessary for poison frogs, so it is optional.
FEEDING	The food is small, live arthropods: springtails and fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), micro crickets, sieved meadow plankton and small isopods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is diurnal and lives mostly on the ground. The males call and probably defend small territories, as their relatives do, so a pair is the safe way to keep them in a smaller vivarium.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.