herpy

POISON DART FROGS

Ameerega pepperi

Ameerega pepperi is a small, black poison frog with yellow stripes and red, orange or yellow markings from central Peru. It lives by streams in forest at 380-1,000 m and is vulnerable because of clearing. Little is known about its care, which is therefore based on the habitat and close relatives.

Family: Dendrobatidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
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	**Experienced**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**22-44**
Larval period	**35-60 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**21-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**75-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Ameerega pepperi*. The species lives by streams in humid forest at 380-1,000 m.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 21-25 °C and at night 18-21 °C. It must not rise above 27 °C, as poison frogs tolerate heat poorly. In summer a fan or a cool room may be necessary. There is no winter rest.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity must be 75-100 %. Mist 1-3 times daily with rainwater or reverse osmosis water, or use a rain system, so that the leaf litter becomes damp but not saturated. Excess water must be able to drain away in the drainage layer.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	A shallow water bowl with 1-2 cm of water and a stone or branch as a landing place is sufficient. Use rainwater, reverse osmosis water or dechlorinated water and change it every 2-3 days.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Provide plant-friendly light for 10-12 hours daily, with shade and hides. UVB is not documented as necessary for the species, but a weak UVB source (Ferguson zone 1) can be used. Take care that the light does not heat the vivarium.
FEEDING	*Ameerega pepperi* is small and takes small feeder insects: fruit flies (mostly *Drosophila melanogaster*, less *Drosophila hydei*), springtails and small isopods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The males are territorial and call from rocks. The species is best kept as a pair in a vivarium with many hides. Frogs should not be handled, because the skin is delicate and handling stresses the animals.
NATIVE RANGE	Peru.