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POISON DART FROGS

Peru Poison Frog

Ameerega petersi

Ameerega petersi is a small, diurnal poison frog of 24-30 mm from the rainforest at the foot of the Andes in eastern Peru and western Brazil. The back is brown with a pale, oblique side stripe. The species is rarely kept, and little is known about its care.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**2-3 cm** 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	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-25 °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 petersi*, but the species is kept in small numbers, and the basic figures for the vivarium are known. It is kept like other small *Ameerega* species from the rainforest leaf litter.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature is 25-28 °C, and at night it is lowered by 3-4 degrees to 21-25 °C. The variation over the year is only 1-2 degrees.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity must be 70-100 %: close to 100 % morning and evening, preferably with mist, and about 70-80 % around midday. Mist with reverse osmosis or rainwater morning and evening, or use a fogger or rain system on a timer.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	A shallow water bowl with 1-2 cm of water is enough. The bowl must be shallow enough for a froglet to climb out of it, and have stones or moss at the edge. Change the water often, and clean the bowl with hot water without soap.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Provide an LED light with a plant-suitable spectrum for 10-12 hours a day. UVB is not necessary for poison frogs; a weak UVB light (Ferguson zone 1) is optional.
FEEDING	The diet consists of small live arthropods from the leaf litter.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The males in the genus call and defend small territories. How *Ameerega petersi* behaves in groups has not been described, so a pair is the safest way to keep them.
NATIVE RANGE	Peru and Brazil.