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POISON DART FROGS

## Spot-legged Poison Frog

# *Ameerega picta*

*Ameerega picta* is a small, diurnal poison frog with a dark brown back, black sides with pale stripes and yellow to red spots on the thighs. It lives on the forest floor from the Amazon lowlands up into the foot of the Andes in Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Brazil and has an isolated population in Venezuela. The species is only rarely kept, so its care is based on the climate of the range and on close relatives.

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

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **22-28 mm**<br>snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **8-12 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and montane forest** |
| Skin toxins in the wild | **Mild** |
| Skin toxins in captivity | **None**<br>Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **60 × 40 × 40 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **21-25 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **18-22 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-100%** |
| Water | **Water dish**<br>depth 1-2 cm |
| UVB | **Optional**<br>Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)** |
| Kept | **In pairs** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Tadpoles carried to water** |
| Egg-laying site | **On the ground** |
| Eggs per clutch | **15-40** |
| Hatching | **15-22 days** |
| Larval period | **40-90 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Algae/plants and complete diet** |
| Parental care | **Carries the tadpoles** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | Little is known about the care of *Ameerega picta*. The species is only rarely kept, and the wide elevational range makes it hard to say which climate the individual population is adapted to. |
| TEMPERATURE | Keep the vivarium at 21-25 °C by day, and let the temperature fall 3-4 °C at night, to 18-22 °C. The variation over the year should be small, 1-2 °C. Frogs tolerate heat poorly: temperatures above about 28 °C are dangerous. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | Humidity must be 70-80 % around midday and close to 100 % 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 bowl with 1-2 cm of water, so that the frogs can easily get out of it, and with stones or moss at the edge. The bowl is used by the adults when the tadpoles are to be deposited. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The light is first and foremost for the plants: 10-12 hours a day with LED light with a plant-suitable spectrum. It is not documented that *Ameerega picta* needs UVB. |
| FEEDING | In the wild the frog lives on small arthropods. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Ameerega picta* is diurnal and lives mostly on the ground. The males of the genus defend small territories, so a pair is the safest way to keep them. Do not keep two males together in a small vivarium. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela. |