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POISON DART FROGS

Cordillera Azul Poison Frog

Ameerega rubriventris

Ameerega rubriventris is a small, dark poison dart frog of 21-25 mm with pale side stripes and a red-black or orange-black marbled belly. It lives only in the forests of the Cordillera Azul in central Peru and is threatened. The species is rarely kept, and little is known about its care.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Epipedobates rubriventris*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**21-25 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	**50 × 50 × 50 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	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Ameerega rubriventris*.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature is 25-28 °C, and at night it is lowered by 3-4 degrees to 21-25 °C. The temperature varies only 1-2 degrees over the year, and a winter rest period is not necessary.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 70-80 % by day and close to 100 % morning and evening, ideally with mist. A rain system or a misting machine on a timer makes this easy; otherwise spray thoroughly morning and evening.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	A shallow water bowl with 1-2 cm of water is enough, and it should be easy to get in and out of.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The light should primarily serve the plants: an LED plant lamp for 10-12 hours a day and a clear night. UVB is not necessary for poison dart frogs; a weak UVB lamp (Ferguson zone 1) is optional.
FEEDING	The frogs eat small live arthropods: fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster* and, for adults, also *D. hydei*), springtails, micro crickets, small isopods and sieved meadow plankton.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Ameerega rubriventris* is diurnal and stays mainly on the forest floor, but readily climbs. The male calls with a bird-like peeping, most often 2-3 short whistles in a row.
NATIVE RANGE	Peru.