herpy

POISON DART FROGS

Cauca Poison Frog

Andinobates bombetes

Andinobates bombetes is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 17-19 mm from the cloud forests of Colombia's Andes. It is black to dark brown with red or orange markings on the front of the body and depends on water-filled bromeliads. The species is Vulnerable in the wild, and little is known about its care.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Ranitomeya bombetes; Dendrobates bombetes; Minyobates bombetes*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**17-19 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
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**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 50 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 5 adults
Temperature, day	**22-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**1-2**
Hatching	**16-24 days**
Larval period	**108-112 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Andinobates bombetes*. What is known is based on the habitat, a cool and very humid mountain forest with thick leaf litter and bromeliads, and on captive breeding in Colombia.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature should be 22-25 °C, and at night it may fall to 18-21 °C as in the mountain forest. Keep the temperature below 27 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 80-100 % and never below 70 %. Spray twice a day, morning and afternoon, or use a fogger or rain system with reverse osmosis water or rainwater.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	A water bowl is not needed; the frogs drink droplets from plants and spray water. For the tadpoles, use bromeliads with water in the leaf axils or small plastic cups with 2-3 cm of water.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The light is primarily for the plants: plant lighting for 10-12 hours a day provides a daily rhythm and growth.
FEEDING	The food is small arthropods: springtails, small fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), small isopods and newly hatched crickets. Newly metamorphosed froglets take only springtails.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Andinobates bombetes* is diurnal and stays low in the enclosure, in the leaf litter and by the bromeliads. The males call mainly in the morning.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia.