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POISON DART FROGS

Blue-bellied Poison Frog

Andinobates minutus

Andinobates minutus is one of the smallest poison dart frogs, only 13-16 mm from snout to vent. It lives in the leaf litter of humid lowland forest from central Panama to the Pacific coast of Colombia, and the male carries the tadpoles up into bromeliads. The species is not collected for the pet trade and is hardly kept, so little is known about its care.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Ranitomeya minuta; Dendrobates minutus; Minyobates minutus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-16 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 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	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-22 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
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	**1-8**
Larval period	**60-80 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**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 *Andinobates minutus*. The care is based on the habitat: warm, humid lowland forest with rain for most of the year and a thick layer of leaf litter.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature should be 22-25 °C and the night 19-22 °C. The temperature must not exceed 27 °C for long, and above 29 °C is dangerous, so the enclosure must not stand in sun or close to a heat source.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 80-100 %. Spray the enclosure 1-2 times a day with rainwater or reverse osmosis water so that the leaf litter is kept damp, or use a rain system on a timer.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The adult frogs do not need a water bowl; they take up water through the skin from spraying and the damp leaf litter.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and lives in shade on the forest floor. LED lighting for about 12 hours a day is enough for the plants. UVB is not necessary; a weak UVB light in Ferguson zone 1 can be used if there is plenty of shade.
FEEDING	In the wild *Andinobates minutus* lives on mites, ants, springtails and insect larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is diurnal and stays in the leaf litter and by the hiding places. The males call from fixed spots and defend their territory, so a pair is the way to keep them.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia and Panama.