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POISON DART FROGS

Andean Poison Frog

Andinobates opisthomelas

Andinobates opisthomelas is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 15-20 mm from the Andes of Colombia, where it lives in the leaf litter of humid mountain forest in Antioquia and Caldas. The species is Vulnerable in the wild, and almost nothing is known about its care.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 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	Almost nothing is known about the care of *Andinobates opisthomelas*, and the species is hardly kept. The care is based on the habitat, the cool and humid mountain forest with leaf litter and bromeliads, and on close relatives.
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*) and small isopods. Newly metamorphosed froglets take only springtails.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Andinobates opisthomelas* is diurnal and lives on the ground, so it stays low in the enclosure, in the leaf litter and by the bromeliads.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia.