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POISON DART FROGS

Andinobates tolimensis

Andinobates tolimensis is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 17-19 mm with a brown back and a metallic yellow-bronze head. It is known only from a small patch of cloud forest in northern Tolima in Colombia, was first described in 2007 and is hardly kept. Its care is therefore based on the cool, humid mountain climate of its habitat.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Ranitomeya tolimense; Ranitomeya tolimensis*

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**

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	**108-152 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**19-23 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-19 °C**
Humidity	**85-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Andinobates tolimensis*, and the species is hardly kept in captivity. The care is based on the habitat: cool, humid cloud forest with dense leaf litter, moss, dead wood and bromeliads.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 19-23 °C by day and 15-19 °C at night, which suits cloud forest at about 1,800 m. Frogs from cool mountain forest tolerate heat poorly, so the enclosure must stand cool, without sun from windows and without heat lamps.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 85-100 % all year, and the leaf litter should be constantly damp. Spray at least twice a day or use a fogger, and let the surfaces dry a little between sprayings so that mould does not develop.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The species does not need a water section. The water is found in the leaf axils of the bromeliads, where the tadpoles grow up, and it must be changed regularly so that it does not become cloudy.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*A. tolimensis* lives in a dense forest with little light at ground level, so the light is primarily for the plants. Provide 10-12 hours of light a day with LED or fluorescent tubes and darkness at night.
FEEDING	The food is small arthropods: the smallest springtails and fruit flies (*Drosophila*) and small woodlice. Feed 3-4 times a week, and always leave live feeder insects in the enclosure.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Behaviour in captivity has not been documented. The frog lives on the forest floor in shade and hides in holes between the roots, in leaf litter and in moss. The male calls from the ground.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia.