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POISON DART FROGS

Santander Poison Frog

Andinobates virolinensis

Andinobates virolinensis is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of up to 19 mm with a scarlet head and forebody and a brown hindbody. It is found only in the cloud forest of the eastern Andes in Colombia. The species is vulnerable in the wild and is hardly ever kept, so its care is based on the cool, humid mountain climate of its habitat.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**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 virolinensis*, and the species is hardly ever kept in captivity. Its care is based on the habitat: cool, humid cloud forest with a thick layer of leaf litter and bromeliads.

TEMPERATURE
The temperature has not been measured in the species' habitat. 19-23 °C by day and 15-19 °C at night suit cloud forest at 1,300-2,400 m.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 85-100 % with damp leaf litter all year round.

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 turn cloudy.

LIGHTING AND UVB
A. virolinensis lives on the shaded forest floor, 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. It is not documented that the species needs UVB.

FEEDING
The diet is small arthropods: springtails and fruit flies (*Drosophila*) in the smallest size, and small woodlice. Feed 3-4 times a week, and always keep live feeder insects in the enclosure.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Behaviour in captivity is not documented. In the wild several adults share the same bromeliad, so the species presumably tolerates company and can be kept as a pair or a small group.

NATIVE RANGE
Colombia.