herpy

POISON DART FROGS

Sky-blue Poison Frog

Hyloxalus azureiventris

Hyloxalus azureiventris is a diurnal poison frog of 25-28 mm, black with yellow stripes, blue-green marbling and bright blue markings on the legs and underside. The species is found only in a small area of northern Peru and is classified as threatened. It is rare in the terrarium hobby and requires an experienced keeper, but can be bred in captivity.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Cryptophyllobates azureiventris; Phyllobates azureiventris*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-28 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and rocky terrain**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
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	**10-17**
Hatching	**12-14 days**
Larval period	**42 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A rainforest enclosure of at least 50 × 50 × 50 cm (length, width, height) suits a pair of *Hyloxalus azureiventris*. The species lives on the ground, so floor area matters more than height.
TEMPERATURE	Keep *Hyloxalus azureiventris* at 24-26 °C during the day, and let the temperature fall 3-4 °C at night, to about 20-23 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity must not lie below 70-80 % for long. Morning and evening it should rise to almost 100 % with fog or rain, while it may fall to about 70 % in the middle of the day.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The species needs a small, shallow water dish for drinking and as a possible breeding site. Use a dish with 1-2 cm of water and a flat edge, so the frogs can get in and out and none drowns.
LIGHTING AND UVB	No need for UVB has been documented for the species. A weak UVB bulb (Ferguson zone 1) can be used as an optional supplement if the animals can move away from it.
FEEDING	*Hyloxalus azureiventris* needs small, live prey.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Hyloxalus azureiventris* is diurnal and lives in hiding among rocks, roots and leaf litter. Adults are very aggressive towards conspecifics of the same sex: both males and females jump on each other and cling on.
NATIVE RANGE	Peru.