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POISON DART FROGS

## Trinidad Poison Frog

# *Mannophryne trinitatis*

*Mannophryne trinitatis* is a small, brown, diurnal frog of 25-28 mm that occurs only on Trinidad, where it lives by clear, stony streams in humid forest. The male can turn jet black when calling, and the female has a clear yellow throat. The species is hardly ever kept, and little is known about its care.

Family: Aromobatidae  Former name: *Phyllobates trinitatis*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **25-28 mm** snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **5-10 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and wetland** |
| Skin toxins | **None known** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **60 × 40 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **23-27 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-22 °C** |
| Humidity | **80-100%** |
| Water | **Water section** depth 3-5 cm |
| UVB | **Optional** Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)** |
| Kept | **In pairs** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Tadpoles carried to water** |
| Egg-laying site | **On the ground** |
| Eggs per clutch | **6-13** |
| Hatching | **21 days** |
| Larval period | **40-50 days** from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Algae/plants and complete diet** |
| Parental care | **Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Not listed** |
| IUCN | **Least Concern (LC)** |

## Care at a glance

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| THE ENCLOSURE | Little is known about keeping *Mannophryne trinitatis*. |
| TEMPERATURE | The daytime temperature should be 23-27 °C and the night 20-22 °C. Frogs from forest streams tolerate heat poorly, so keep the temperature below 28 °C. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | Humidity should be 80-100 %. Mist daily so that leaves and stones are wet. A fogging system makes it easier to keep the humidity stable. Provide ventilation so that the air does not become stagnant. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | The species needs a permanent water section with shallow, clean and preferably gently flowing water, 3-5 cm deep, with stones and leaves. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | UVB is hardly necessary, but a low dose (Ferguson zone 1) is optional. Plant lighting for 10-12 hours keeps moss and ferns alive. Provide shade with plants and bark so that the frogs can move away from the bright light. |
| FEEDING | The species needs small arthropods: small and large fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster* and *Drosophila hydei*), springtails and small isopods. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Mannophryne trinitatis* is diurnal and territorial. Females defend their spots more often than males, with threats, wrestling and chasing, and they display the yellow throat as a threat. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Trinidad & Tobago. |