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POISON DART FROGS

Kokoe Poison Frog

Phyllobates aurotaenia

Phyllobates aurotaenia is a diurnal poison frog of 3-4 cm from the Pacific coast of Colombia, black with two green to golden stripes along the back. Wild animals carry a deadly skin poison, but captive-bred animals are non-poisonous. The species is bold, calls loudly and is easy to breed.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates aurotaenia*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins in the wild	**Strong**
Skin toxins in captivity	**None** Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**21-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °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 or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Sexually mature	**8-10 months**
Eggs per clutch	**8-28**
Larval period	**60-80 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair or a small group of *Phyllobates aurotaenia* needs a rainforest enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 45 cm for up to 4 adults. The species is active and also uses height, so give it perches and plants to climb in.

TEMPERATURE
Phyllobates aurotaenia does best when cool. During the day it should be 21-24 °C, and at night the temperature is lowered to 18-21 °C. The temperature must not exceed 27 °C, because the genus tolerates heat poorly.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 70-100 %. The species tolerates down to 50 % briefly if it has access to water, but low humidity without water can quickly become fatal.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
A shallow water dish with 1-2 cm of water and a stone or a sloping edge, so the frogs can easily get up, is enough.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The light is first and foremost for the plants. Fluorescent tubes or LED light of about 6,500 K give natural colours and good plant growth, and about 12 hours of light a day is usual.

FEEDING
Phyllobates aurotaenia eats small arthropods. Juveniles take wingless *Drosophila melanogaster*, while adults readily eat larger feeder insects such as *Drosophila hydei* and very small crickets.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Phyllobates aurotaenia is diurnal and bold, but shy when young.

NATIVE RANGE
Colombia.