herpy

POISON DART FROGS

Tahuayo Poison Frog

Ranitomeya flavovittata

Ranitomeya flavovittata is one of the smallest species in the genus: only 15-17 mm from snout to vent. It is bright yellow with black markings, brown legs and a pale blue belly and comes from the rainforest near Iquitos in north-eastern Peru. It is diurnal and a little shy, breeds willingly in film canisters and bromeliads and is a good choice for a keeper with a little experience.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates flavovittatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-17 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
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	**Intermediate**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**In leaf axils (e.g. bromeliads)**
Sexually mature	**5-8 months**
Eggs per clutch	**2-6**
Hatching	**10-14 days**
Larval period	**60-80 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet and unfertilised eggs from the female**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles and feeds the tadpoles with eggs**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**21-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair of *R. flavovittata* needs an enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm, but bigger is always better. A group of 3-4 frogs needs at least 45 × 45 × 45 cm, and each additional frog requires more space.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the enclosure at 21-26 °C by day and 18-21 °C at night. The night temperature is borrowed from related species. The temperature must not exceed 27 °C for long periods, and above 29 °C can be fatal.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity must be 70-100 %. The species can briefly cope with about 50 % if it has access to clean water, but this is an emergency measure and can be fatal if it continues. Mist daily, and use reverse-osmosis water or rainwater.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Give the frogs a shallow water dish or a small water feature, and keep the water so shallow that the smallest frog can sit with its head and upper body above the water: the species swims poorly. The water depth should be 1-2 cm.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The frogs are diurnal and live in the shade of the rainforest. The light is first and foremost for the plants: LED light for 12-14 hours a day is suitable.

FEEDING

R. flavovittata is so small that it can only take small feeder insects. Juveniles and most adults eat wingless fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), and large adults can also take *D. hydei* and newly hatched crickets.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

R. flavovittata is diurnal, quick and a little shy. The frogs become bolder if the enclosure is densely planted and has many hiding places, and they get used to you if you watch them through the glass.

NATIVE RANGE

Peru.