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POISON DART FROGS

Summers' Poison Dart Frog

Ranitomeya summersi

Ranitomeya summersi is a small, diurnal poison frog of 16-21 mm from the Huallaga Valley in Peru, orange or copper-coloured with black marbling and a black mask over the eyes. The species is threatened in the wild, the eggs are hard to find, and the frogs are quick and shy, so it is best suited to a keeper with experience of poison frogs.

Family: Dendrobatidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**16-21 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	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**30 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 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**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**4-9**
Hatching	**10-14 days**
Larval period	**60-80 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 pair or a small trio of *R. summersi* can be kept in an enclosure of at least 30 × 30 × 45 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the enclosure at 21-26 °C during the day and 18-21 °C at night. The temperature must not exceed 27 °C for any length of time, and above 29 °C is life-threatening. The species tolerates heat worse than cold.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 70-100 %. A good rhythm is close to 100 % morning and evening and 70-75 % in the middle of the day, so the enclosure can dry out a little between mistings.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

A shallow water dish or a bromeliad with water in the leaf axils is enough.

LIGHTING AND UVB

R. summersi is diurnal, and the light is first and foremost for the plants. Give 12-14 hours of light a day and darkness at night. It is not documented that the species needs UVB.

FEEDING

The staple food is small live arthropods. Juveniles and young animals take wingless fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), and large adults can also take the larger *D. hydei*.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

R. summersi is diurnal, quick and often shy, but can become bolder once it has got used to the enclosure. They are seen most in a densely planted enclosure with hiding places.

NATIVE RANGE

Peru.