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POISON DART FROGS

Brazil-nut Poison Frog

Adelphobates castaneoticus

Adelphobates castaneoticus is a small, glossy black poison frog with white or yellowish spots and bright orange patches at the forelimbs and knees. It lives on the forest floor in the Brazilian state of Pará in the Amazon and is named after the Brazil nut, whose empty shells the male uses as water pools for the tadpoles. Little is known about its care.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates castaneoticus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-23 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**8-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**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	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Sexually mature	**5-7 months**
Eggs per clutch	**4-8**
Hatching	**10-14 days**
Larval period	**60-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and other tadpoles**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Adelphobates castaneoticus*. The species lives in the leaf litter on the forest floor in a warm and humid lowland climate.

TEMPERATURE
The daytime temperature should be 24-27 °C, and at night it falls 3-4 °C, to 20-24 °C. The variation over the year should be small, 1-2 °C. This fits the lowland climate of Pará. There should be no basking spot and no heat lamp.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be about 70-80 % in the middle of the day and close to 100 % in the morning and evening, and the leaf litter and substrate should be moist at all times.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
A water dish is not necessary unless you want to raise young. The frogs get their moisture from misting and the moist leaf litter.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Provide 10-12 hours of light a day with fluorescent tubes or LEDs for the plants. In the wild the species lives in the shade under the forest canopy, so the light should give the plants enough to grow without heating the enclosure.

FEEDING
In the wild *A. castaneoticus* feeds on ants, termites and other small arthropods. In captivity feed springtails, small fruit flies and small isopods.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
A. castaneoticus is diurnal and lives mostly on the forest floor. Temperament and territorial behaviour are not documented, but *A. galactonotus* can become aggressive towards conspecifics when it becomes sexually mature.

NATIVE RANGE
Brazil.