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POISON DART FROGS

Rio Madeira Poison Frog

Adelphobates quinquevittatus

Adelphobates quinquevittatus is a very small, glossy black poison frog of 14-16 mm with white stripes and grey, greenish or orange legs. It lives in the leaf litter of the rainforest in the Madeira River drainage in the southern Amazon and is only rarely kept. Very little is known about its care.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-16 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**
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	**Carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Very little is known about the care of *Adelphobates quinquevittatus*. The species lives in the leaf litter 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 Rondônia.

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. quinquevittatus* feeds mostly on ants and termites. In captivity feed small fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), springtails, micro crickets, small waxworm larvae, sieved meadow plankton and small isopods.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

A. quinquevittatus is diurnal and lives mostly in the leaf litter. Temperament and territorial behaviour are not documented.

NATIVE RANGE

Brazil.