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POISON DART FROGS

Sanguine Poison Frog

Allobates zaparo

Allobates zaparo is a small, diurnal frog of about 3 cm from the rainforest at the foot of the Andes in Ecuador and northern Peru. Adults have a red back, black flanks, a blue belly and yellow spots at the limbs and mimic the poisonous *Ameerega bilinguis* and *Ameerega parvula*, but are not poisonous themselves. The species is only rarely kept, so the care is based on the climate and on its relative *Allobates femoralis*.

Family: Aromobatidae Former name: *Epipedobates zaparo; Phyllobates zaparo; Dendrobates zaparo* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °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**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**8-20**
Hatching	**15-20 days**
Larval period	**40-50 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**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 *Allobates zaparo*. The species is only rarely kept, and captive breeding is not described.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the enclosure at 24-27 °C during the day and 21-23 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 70-80 % in the middle of the day and close to 100 % in the morning and evening.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Provide a shallow glass dish with 1-2 cm of water that the frogs can easily climb out of. The dish is used by the adults when the tadpoles are to be deposited.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The light is first and foremost for the plants: 10-12 hours a day with LED light with a plant-suitable spectrum. It is not documented that *Allobates zaparo* needs UVB.
FEEDING	In the wild ants are an important part of the diet.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Allobates zaparo* is diurnal and lives on the leaf litter. The males call from the top of the leaves to attract females.
NATIVE RANGE	Ecuador and Peru.