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POISON DART FROGS

Cauca Poison Frog

Andinobates bombetes

Andinobates bombetes is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 17-19 mm from the cloud forests of Colombia's Andes. It is black to dark brown with red or orange markings on the front of the body and depends on water-filled bromeliads. The species is Vulnerable in the wild, and little is known about its care.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Ranitomeya bombetes; Dendrobates bombetes; Minyobates bombetes* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**17-19 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
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 × 50 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 5 adults
Temperature, day	**22-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
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	**1-2**
Hatching	**16-24 days**
Larval period	**108-112 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Andinobates bombetes*. What is known is based on the habitat, a cool and very humid mountain forest with thick leaf litter and bromeliads, and on captive breeding in Colombia.

TEMPERATURE
The daytime temperature should be 22-25 °C, and at night it may fall to 18-21 °C as in the mountain forest. Keep the temperature below 27 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 80-100 % and never below 70 %. Spray twice a day, morning and afternoon, or use a fogger or rain system with reverse osmosis water or rainwater.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
A water bowl is not needed; the frogs drink droplets from plants and spray water. For the tadpoles, use bromeliads with water in the leaf axils or small plastic cups with 2-3 cm of water.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The light is primarily for the plants: plant lighting for 10-12 hours a day provides a daily rhythm and growth.

FEEDING
The food is small arthropods: springtails, small fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), small isopods and newly hatched crickets. Newly metamorphosed froglets take only springtails.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Andinobates bombetes is diurnal and stays low in the enclosure, in the leaf litter and by the bromeliads. The males call mainly in the morning.

NATIVE RANGE
Colombia.