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POISON DART FROGS

Bocas Poison Frog

Andinobates claudiae

Andinobates claudiae was described as the smallest poison dart frog: adults measure only about 13 mm. It lives in the leaf litter of lowland forest in Bocas del Toro in north-western Panama, both on the islands and on the mainland. The species is threatened, and almost nothing is known about its care.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Ranitomeya claudiae* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 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	**Expert**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per clutch	**1-8**
Larval period	**60-80 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-22 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Almost nothing is known about the care of *Andinobates claudiae*. The care is based on the habitat: warm, humid lowland forest with rain for most of the year and a thick layer of leaf litter.

TEMPERATURE

The daytime temperature should be 22-25 °C and the night 19-22 °C. The figures are borrowed from *Ranitomeya imitator*, which thrives best at 21-24 °C and tolerates 18-27 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 80-100 %. Spray the enclosure 1-2 times a day with rainwater or reverse osmosis water so that the leaf litter is kept damp, or use a rain system on a timer.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The adult frogs do not need a water bowl; they take up water through the skin from spraying and the damp leaf litter.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and lives in shade on the forest floor. LED lighting for about 12 hours a day is enough for the plants. UVB is not necessary; a weak UVB light in Ferguson zone 1 can be used if there is plenty of shade.

FEEDING

Andinobates claudiae is so small that the feeder insects must be the smallest available: springtails, small wingless fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and small isopods. Even ordinary fruit flies can be too large.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is diurnal and stays in the leaf litter and by the hiding places. The males call from fixed spots and defend their territory, so a pair is the way to keep them.

NATIVE RANGE

Panama.