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POISON DART FROGS

Samaná Poison Frog

Andinobates daleswansoni

Andinobates daleswansoni is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 18-20 mm with a bright red head and forebody and a brown hind body. It occurs only in the cloud forest of the Cordillera Central in Caldas, Colombia. The species is threatened and hardly kept, so its care is based on the cool, wet mountain climate of its habitat.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-20 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 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**18-22 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-17 °C**
Humidity	**85-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
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	**1-2**
Hatching	**16-24 days**
Larval period	**108-152 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Andinobates daleswansoni*, and the species is hardly kept in captivity. The care is based on the habitat: cool, wet cloud forest with thick leaf litter, many hiding places and bromeliads.
TEMPERATURE	The temperature has not been measured in the species' habitat. 18-22 °C by day and 14-17 °C at night suit cloud forest at 1,800-2,500 m. The species tolerates heat poorly, and prolonged periods above 25 °C stress the animals.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 85-100 %. Spray the leaf litter and plants thoroughly once or twice a day with rainwater or reverse osmosis water, or use a fogger on a timer. The substrate should be damp but not waterlogged.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The species does not need a water section. The animals get moisture from the leaf litter, plants and spraying. The tadpoles grow up in water in the leaf axils of bromeliads.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Provide 10-12 hours of LED light a day so that the plants thrive. The understorey of the cloud forest is shaded, so the light should not be strong, and the animals must be able to seek shade.
FEEDING	*Andinobates daleswansoni* measures only 18-20 mm and eats small arthropods such as springtails and small fruit flies.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is diurnal and lives on the ground in the leaf litter, where it uses holes and hiding places. Territorial behaviour and calling have not been documented. A pair can be kept together in an enclosure of 45 × 45 × 45 cm.
NATIVE RANGE	Colombia.