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POISON DART FROGS

Tolima Poison Frog

Andinobates dorisswansonae

Andinobates dorisswansonae is a small, diurnal poison dart frog of 16-19 mm, black or dark brown with red, orange or yellow spots. It is known only from a small patch of forest in northern Tolima in Colombia. The species is Vulnerable and hardly kept, so its care is based on the cool, wet mountain climate of its habitat.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**16-19 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 × 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	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Andinobates dorisswansonae*, and the species is hardly kept in captivity. The care is based on the habitat: cool, wet mountain forest with a dense canopy, thick leaf litter 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 forest at about 1,800 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 forest has a dense canopy, so the light should not be strong, and the animals must be able to seek shade.

FEEDING
Andinobates dorisswansonae measures only 16-19 mm and eats small arthropods, in the wild especially ants.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is diurnal and lives on the ground in the leaf litter. Territorial behaviour has not been documented. A pair can be kept together in an enclosure of 45 × 45 × 45 cm.

NATIVE RANGE
Colombia.