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POISON DART FROGS

Anthony's Poison Arrow Frog

Epipedobates anthonyi

Epipedobates anthonyi is a small, red and striped poison frog of 19-27 mm from south-western Ecuador and north-western Peru. It is the frog that has been sold for decades as "tricolor", and it is probably the most widely kept and bred poison frog of all: hardy, bold, vocal and a prolific breeder.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates anthonyi; Phyllobates anthonyi* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**19-27 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-14 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry 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	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
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**
Sexually mature	**5-10 months**
Eggs per clutch	**10-40**
Hatching	**9-14 days** at 22-24 °C
Larval period	**43-89 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An enclosure of at least 40 × 40 × 40 cm suits one male and two females of *Epipedobates anthonyi*. Bigger is better: 60 × 60 × 40 cm, 80 × 50 × 60 cm or 100 × 50 × 60 cm suit groups of 5-10 animals.

TEMPERATURE
Keep 22-26 °C during the day with both cooler and warmer zones, and let the temperature drop to room temperature at night, about 18-21 °C. The species tolerates 18-27 °C, ideally around 21-24 °C, and over 29 °C is dangerous.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 80-100 %. The species tolerates down to 50 % for short periods if it has access to water, but low humidity without water can quickly become fatal.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Make one or more small water holes with about 2 cm of water, e.g. saucers, drinking dishes or half Brazil nut shells that the frogs can easily climb out of.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The lighting is for the plants. Fluorescent tubes or LED bars for about 12 hours a day are enough, and the day length can vary slightly over the year.

FEEDING
Epipedobates anthonyi is small but greedy and takes relatively large prey.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Epipedobates anthonyi is diurnal, bold and often out in the open, and the males call with a trill, mostly in the morning and after misting.

NATIVE RANGE
Ecuador and Peru.