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POISON DART FROGS

Red Uakari Poison Frog

Ranitomeya uakarii

Ranitomeya uakarii is a very small, diurnal poison frog of 13-16 mm from the Amazon basin. It is black with red to orange stripes, yellow flanks and blue legs, and it is rare in the hobby. The care advice is based on experience with the genus, and the species suits an experienced keeper with patience and a steady supply of tiny feeder insects.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates uakarii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-16 mm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-6 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and 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	**Intermediate**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**In leaf axils (e.g. bromeliads)**
Eggs per clutch	**2-7**
Hatching	**10-14 days**
Larval period	**60-100 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Carries the tadpoles**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**21-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 1-2 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair or a trio of *Ranitomeya uakarii* can be kept in a terrarium of 45 × 45 × 45 cm, and 40 × 40 × 40 cm is also used for a pair or a trio.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the terrarium at 21-25 °C during the day and 18-21 °C at night. The figures are borrowed from the genus, and the values given range from about 21-24 °C to 25-28 °C during the day.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be 70-100 %. Mist daily, so that humidity is close to 100 % morning and evening and 70-75 % in the middle of the day. This lets the terrarium dry out a little between sprayings.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

A shallow water dish or a bromeliad with water in the leaf axils is enough. Keep the water 1-2 cm deep, so that the small frog can sit in it with its head and upper body above the water; the depth is borrowed from the genus.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Ranitomeya uakarii is diurnal, and the lighting is first and foremost for the plants. Provide 12-14 hours of light a day with fluorescent tubes or LED and darkness at night. It is not documented that the species needs UVB.

FEEDING

The staple diet is small arthropods: wingless fruit flies, springtails, small white woodlice and newly hatched crickets.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Ranitomeya uakarii is diurnal. In a densely planted terrarium with many hiding places you typically see more of the frogs than in a barren terrarium, but the small frogs are often shy and hide when you approach the glass.

NATIVE RANGE

Brazil, Colombia and Peru.