

## Poison Dart Frogs *Dendrobates species*

Family: Dendrobatidae

Captive Care: Rainforest terrarium: for up to 3-4 frogs, a 10 gallon aquarium (20 long is better) with hinged glass lid that has 1.5-2 inches of plastic along back in which ~6 small holes have been drilled (allows air exchange while maintaining high humidity, 95%). 2-3 inches of small stones (washed, smooth pea gravel) are placed in bottom of tank, followed by potted plant (out of pots if desired), (e.g. pothos, philodendron, sansevieria) and covered with ~2 inches of untreated sphagnum moss, leaving one corner as a shallow pool with rock bottom. Sphagnum may be covered with living green moss (either sheet or pillow moss). A small pump can be used to generate a stream; put pump in one corner (cover with rocks) and run aquarium tubing under rock to other corner where rocks are piled to generate a waterfall and rock stream. Include a breeding hut with petri dish that has leaf and water covered by half a coconut shell or half a clay flower pot.

Temperature: Room temperature as long as it does not go below 70°F; 75-84°F preferred.

Lighting: Full spectrum lighting for plants.

Diet: Flightless fruit flies and 1/8in. crickets. Dust with vitamin calcium mix (2-3 parts Herptivite: 1 part RepCal). Dart frogs consume large numbers of small food items.

Notes: These frogs get their name from the poisons they secrete in the wild, based on their diet. While captive bred poison frogs are not poisonous, they are very fragile and thus should not be handled. When moving frogs, chase them into small plastic container (e.g. ketchup cup) and put lid on to move, then allow them to climb out of container.

### References:

Bartlett, P.P., Griswold DVM, B. and Bartlett, R.D. 2001 Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates: an identification and care guide. Barron's Educational Series, Hauppauge, NY. 279pp.

Samples, William and Wattle, Jack. Breeding Poison Dart Frogs. T.F.H. Publications, Neptune City, NJ. 80pp.

Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute (on-line). Accessed September 2016 at

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Amazonia/Facts/fact-poisondartfrog.cfm>

Walls, Jerry. 1994 Jewels of the Rainforest – Poison Frogs of the Family Dendrobatidae. T.F.H. Publications, Neptune City, NJ. 288pp.



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### **“Dyeing” Poison Frogs (yellow back, powder blue, citronella)**

#### *Dendrobates tinctorius*

Locale: Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana and into Brazil

Habitat: Tropical rainforest from lowland to 1200 feet, seldom leave ground vegetation, but can climb and jump

Average Size: 2.5 inches

Average Lifespan: 7-15+ years



### **Blue Poison Frog**

#### *Dendrobates azureus*

Locale: Surinam & Brazil, especially the Sipaliwini savanna

Habitat: Rainforest near & on ground

Average Size: 2+ inches

Average Lifespan: 5-8 years



### **Yellow and Black Poison Frog**

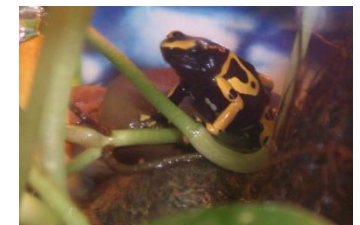
#### *Dendrobates leucomelas*

Locale: Venezuela & Columbia

Habitat: Primary rainforest, on ground level vegetation and leaf litter of forest floor

Average Size: 1.25 inches

Average Life Span: 7-15+ years



## **Green and Black Poison Frog**

*Dendrobates auratus*

Locale: Nicaragua, Costa Rica, & Panama

Habitat: On ground & climbing on rocks close to  
water (riverbanks & streams)

Average Size: 1.25 inches

Average Lifespan: 7-15+ years

Compiled by Eileen Underwood. Updated 9/2016.

