



Jungle Bob's Care Sheet
Blue Poison Frog/Blue Dart Frog
(Dendrobates tinctorius; formerly D. azureus)

General Information

The strikingly-beautiful Blue Poison Frog, often described as a “living gem”, is hard to resist. With proper care, this tiny but hardy creature can exceed 20 years of age.

The Blue Poison Frog is found only on the Sipaliwini Savanna, which lies 1,150 feet above sea level on the western side of southern Suriname's De Vier Gebroeders Mountains. Its habitat consists of wet forest patches within an arid grassland.



The Blue Poison Frog's body is black-spotted sky blue in color, while the limbs are a brilliant dark blue. Adults average 1.3 - 1.5 inches in length, which is quite sizable for a poison frog.

Housing

Blue Poison Frogs show themselves to best advantage in terrariums stocked with live plants, driftwood, and rocks. A pair can be kept in a 10 gallon aquarium; larger tanks can support small groups. One-half inch of de-chlorinated water should be provided in a shallow bowl or pool. They can climb well and will escape through tiny openings, so the terrarium's cover must be secured with clips. [Eco-Earth \(coconut husk\)](#) covered by sheet or sphagnum moss makes a good substrate.

Low levels of UVB light, and UVA, may be of some benefit. Temperatures should range from 72-80 F; several days of temperatures above 85 F may prove fatal. Humidity levels of 80-100% should be maintained by keeping the moss layer damp and spraying the terrarium heavily. If your home is unusually dry, consider a small mister.

Diet

Ten-day-old crickets, flightless fruit flies, and springtails can form the bulk of the diet. Flour and bean beetle larvae, (available commercially), termites, ants, aphids and “meadow plankton” (insects gathered by sweeping through tall grass with a net) should also be offered if possible. Native insects should be collected in pesticide-free habitats, and with care to avoid toxic and biting/stinging species. These active little frogs have quite large appetites and should be fed every day or two

Most meals should be coated with a [powdered Calcium/Vitamin D3 supplement](#). A vitamin/mineral supplement should be used 2-3x weekly.

Cleaning and Handling

Ammonia from waste products is extremely lethal, and must be controlled by daily water changes and frequent substrate replacement. The inside of the terrarium can be cleaned out with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner; we recommend [Natural Chemistry's Healthy Habitat](#).

Blue Poison Frogs do not take well to handling, and are quick, agile escape artists. They are best moved by being urged into a plastic container. Wet hands must be used if touching is necessary, so that the skin's protective mucus is not removed. While they do not produce their notorious skin toxins when fed typical captive diets, other skin secretions may cause irritations when transferred to wounds, eyes, or the mouth.

Fun Fact

Blue Poison Frogs obtain their virulent skin toxins, known as lipophilic alkaloids, from their prey, with ants being the most important source. Females feed their tadpoles with unfertilized eggs (happily, captive tadpoles thrive on less exotic fare – fish flakes and algae!).

Jungle Bob's Reptile World
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