

Bicolor Poison

Dart Frog

Phylllobates bicolor



Physical Characteristics

- Small bright colored frogs, bright colors warn predators of their toxicity
- Usually gold/yellow with black spots on its back legs but can be a variety of different colors
- Usually no difference between males and females
- Have toxic glands all over their body that secrete poison

Size

- Length: 1.75 in – 2.25 in. (45-55 mm)

Lifespan

- Wild: unknown
- Zoos: 10-20 years

Behaviors

- Foragers that are diurnal
- Active with quick, short hops
- Good climbers due to gripping discs on their feet

Diet

- Wild: mostly carnivorous, preying on small arthropods as adults. As tadpoles, they will usually eat insect larvae, detritus, fish eggs and even frog eggs
- Zoo: small insects

Reproduction

- Breeding Interval: continuous throughout rainy season
- Clutch Size: 4-30
- Breeding Behaviors: Males will sit on a leaf and produce a mating call until the female is attracted. They then find a moist spot to lay their eggs, which are laid in a jelly like clump. The male fertilizes the eggs as they are laid by the female. Either parent will guard the eggs until they hatch, then that parent squats over the eggs as they hatch and allow the babies to climb onto the back where they can remain from a few minutes to a few hours in a mucous, then the parents take them to a body of water where they will be tadpoles for around 3 weeks and then they return to their terrestrial habitat.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Tropical rainforest near streams
- Range: Central and South America

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Near threatened
- Pet trade and deforestation are major issues for these frogs

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Amphibia
- Order: Salientia
- Family: Dendrobatidae
- Genus: *Phyllobates*
- Species: *Phyllobates bicolor*

Interesting Facts

- Frogs that are born in zoos do not have toxins since they process poison from prey such as ants and beetles in the wild.
- It is believed that .0000004 oz of their toxins is enough to kill a human.
- Darts and Arrows – Known as poison dart or poison arrow frogs, they get their name from the use by the native people of Colombia by applying the toxin of these frogs to darts or arrow tips used for hunting.
- A group of dart frogs is called an army of frogs.

