

Yellow-and-Blue Poison Dart Frog

Scientific Name: *Dendrobates tinctorius*

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Family: Dendrobatidae



Also known as the Dyeing Dart Frog, the Yellow and Blue Poison Dart Frog has a slim body with a rounded snout. It has slender legs with toes and fingers that have small adhesive discs for climbing. This frog can grow to just over two inches in length. It has no teeth. Its color is most striking. The skin color of black with brilliant yellow stripes and a blue belly and legs with black spots, alerts potential predators that its skin holds a poisonous liquid which is unpleasant to the taste. They may also be colored brown black with yellow and white stripes depending on the area where they are found.

Range

South America: French Guiana, Guyana, Surinam and Northeastern Brazil

Habitat

Found in the rain forest in cracks or clefts of tree trunks, or near a stream. They have also been found as high as 30 feet above the ground.

Gestation

Incubation: 2 weeks

Litter

Clutch size: 5 to 20 eggs

Behavior

The frog is active during the day, foraging in leaves for its food. It moves in short hops and is rarely still for more than a few moments. They are territorial and will dispute their territory by having "wrestling matches."

Reproduction

Mating is done by amplexus in which the male clasps the female while she lays her 5 to 20 eggs. He fertilizes these immediately after they are expelled before the jelly which surrounds them swells. All eggs are laid on the ground and are guarded by the parents until they become larvae. The male then attaches the larvae to his back by a mucous secretion and carries them to a stream. They develop into tadpoles. Front legs typically erupt from the tadpole in three months and it becomes a frog shortly thereafter by metamorphosis.

Wild Diet

Ants, termites and other small arthropods (spiders, insects)