

Dart Frogs



Scientific Name:

Dendrobates azureus (Blue Dart Frog)

Dendrobates auratus (Green and Black Dart Frog)

Range:

D. azureus: Southern rainforests of Suriname

D. auratus: Central America from Ecuador to northeastern South America

Habitat:

Rainforest

Average Size:

Both up to 2 inches and 8 grams

Lifespan in Captivity:

Up to 20 years

Diet:

Wild: Termites, crickets, ants, beetles and fruit flies

Zoo: fruit flies, pinhead crickets

Reproduction:

Incubation: about 12 days

Clutch Size: 3-6 eggs; up to 30 clutches over a period of several days

Appearance:

D. azureus – light blue with black spots on the back to a vibrant sapphire on the legs and belly.

D. auratus – metallic green and black splotches across the body

Predators:

Adults: snakes, large spiders

Tadpoles: dragonfly larvae, snakes

Population Status:

D. azureus : Highly Vulnerable

D. auratus: At Risk



About the Animal

Dart Frogs, also called Poison Arrow Frogs, belong to a large family containing more than 100 species of neotropical frogs that excrete neurotoxin through the skin. In the wild this is an excellent defense against a variety of predators, as very few are immune to this tiny frogs' lethal defense.

Arrow Frogs are territorial species that is bold and aggressive. These beautiful, bright amphibian jewels are eye catching, aiding the frog in territory defense displays and warning predators that it is poisonous.

Both species tend to like dark, moist areas, and may be difficult to see, despite the bright colors.

Mating and Reproduction

In Blue Dart Frogs, the eggs are laid on a damp surface, such as leaf. After the clutch is laid, the parents usually stay in the area until the eggs hatch. Once the tadpoles hatch, the male transports them from water source to water source in order to protect the vulnerable tadpoles from predators. Every couple of days the female will come by and lay a couple of infertile eggs for the tadpoles to eat.

In Green and Black Dart frogs, after courtship the female lays up to six eggs in a small pool of water. She returns to check on the eggs periodically. After hatching, the tadpoles climb onto the female's back and are carried to a larger body of water. Once they reach a lake or stream, they're on their own.



D. azureus (above), *D. auratus* (below)

Amazing Information

Because of their diet, captive bred frogs are non-toxic and perfectly safe to handle.

Blue Dart Frogs were not discovered until 1968!



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