

Dendrobates auratus

***Dendrobates auratus* encompasses the following localities:**

Costa Rican Green and Black
Panamanian Blue and Black
Green and Bronze
Rio Cascajal
Pena Blanca
Nicaraguan
Boca Del Toro
Hawaiian
Mebalo
Taboga
Super Blue
Microspot
Black Capira
Capira
Colon



Written by:



Highland Bronze
Melanistic Super Blue
Capurgana
Campana
Portabello
Reticulated
El Cope
Bahia Solano
Golden
Ancon Hill
Green and White
Blue and Silver
Las Sabalos
Pastores
San Felix

*****No You Cannot Mix Any of These or Any Other Dart Frogs!*****

Enclosure Size: Auratus are a medium sized dart frog, growing from 1.25-1.5" in length. For 1-2 individuals, a 10 Gallon tank is the minimum. For up to 4 individuals, the minimum is a 20 gallon tank or 18x18x18. For 5 individuals, a 24x18x18 or larger is suggested. The larger the tank, the less likelihood of territorial disputes and the more foraging space for these medium sized dart frogs. These dimensions assume a well-planted tank. Plants provide more hiding places and visual barriers in addition to buffering against temperature and humidity swings. Ensure your plants do not become overgrown as tinctorius do not do well if they become tangled in plant roots or unable to freely move about the tank to forage due to overgrowth.

Group Behavior: Auratus are much less territorial than tinctorius, but can still have territorial disputes if kept in too small of an enclosure. Some localities, such as highland bronze, can be more aggressive. The absolute maximum number within any sized tank is 5 individuals to prevent unnecessary aggression and stress. Aggression typically arises around 10-12 months of age and after when hormones drive females to compete over males and egg laying sites. Females will often eat each other's eggs. Smaller individuals may be bullied, but this is much less common than with tinctorius.

Typical Gender: Auratus can be sexed around 10-12 months of age. They are slightly female heavy. Auratus are typically more difficult to sex than tinctorius and while girth is often the primary way to guess sex, observing calling is the best way to distinguish a male. Depending on the locality, males will generally have slightly larger/longer front toes/toe pads.

Tank Setup: Auratus are relatively heavy frogs and are not the best swimmers or climbers (although they will frog-style doggy paddle to save their life if necessary or will access some higher, easy to reach spots on occasion). Paludariums and water deeper than their back are high risk drowning hazards. We do not recommend water features in their tank due to the additional risk of bacterial infections if the water is not properly maintained. Since these are terrestrial dart frogs, Auratus need as much floor space as allowed and will benefit significantly from a longer tank with a larger foot print than taller tanks with narrower footprints. Auratus do well with much lower ventilation and higher humidity, making a glass top a necessity over a fully ventilated mesh top as well. Auratus are more prone to "drying out" than tinctorius, so it is important to ensure the tank has constant high humidity (this does not mean keeping the leaf litter sopping wet as this will lead to bacterial infections). Often times auratus will hide under the leaf litter when conditions are too dry.

Personality: Auratus are typically less bold than tinctorius or leucomelas, but some localities are rather bold such as El Cope. Some localities such as Rio Cascajal are very shy, but personality can vary. Auratus make good beginner dart frogs because they are not as prone to ventilation or moisture related ailments as other dart frogs such as phylllobates or pumilio, and are generally larger, more active frogs. Auratus can be slightly more prone to escaping than tinctorius or leucomelas as many localities can be startled quite easily due to their generally shy nature, causing them to "dart" out of a front opening tank when performing tank maintenance.