

Dendrobates leucomelas

***Dendrobates leucomelas* encompasses the following localities:**

Fine Spot
Standard/Nominate
Chocolate
Banded
Clown
Green Foot
Blue Foot/Cerro Autana



Written by:



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

Enclosure Size: Leucomelas are medium sized dart frogs, 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 or 18x18x24. For 5 individuals, a 24x18x18 or larger is suggested. Groups of up to 10 individuals can be kept with at least 5 gallons of space per frog although 10 is recommended. 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 leucomelas 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: Leucomelas are seldom territorial and are some of the most "Chill" dart frogs in the hobby, often being referred to as the couch potatoes of the dart frog world. Leucomelas are typically considered more communal dart frogs, but can still have territorial disputes if kept in too small of an enclosure. Aggression can arise around 10-12 months of age and after when hormones drive females to compete over males and egg laying sites. Males will sometimes "wrestle" over females as well, but fatalities are very rare unlike with more aggressive species such as tinctorius. Aggression is again rare with Leucomelas, but is possible. Smaller individuals are typically not prone to bullying, but can be sometimes trampled on accident or out-competed for food.

Typical Gender: Leucomelas can be sexed around 10-12 months of age. They are slightly female heavy. Leucomelas 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.

Tank Setup: Leucomelas are heavier frogs and are not the best swimmers (although they will frog-style doggy paddle to save their life if necessary). Paludariums and water deeper than their back are high risk drowning hazards. Stagnant or unfiltered water features present a higher risk of bacterial infection as well. We do not generally recommend water features in their tank. Although these are terrestrial dart frogs, Leucomelas love to climb and will benefit from both spacious vivarium floors and taller tanks for climbing. Leucomelas do well with much lower ventilation and higher humidity, making a glass top a necessity over a fully ventilated mesh top as well. Often times, Leucomelas will hide under the leaf litter when conditions are too dry.

Personality: Leucomelas are typically bold and, as dart frogs go, are some of the least prone to stress. Leucomelas make some of the best beginner dart frogs because they are bold, not as prone to ventilation or moisture related ailments as other dart frogs, are generally larger and more active frogs, are some of the least prone to escape, and overall are very hardy dart frogs. They are one of the most prone dart frogs to becoming overweight as they always have a healthy appetite.