

# *Dendrobates tinctorius*

## ***Dendrobates tinctorius* encompasses the following localities:**

Azureus  
True Sip  
Matecho  
Robertus  
New River  
Koetari River (UTC)  
Koetari River (UE)  
Alanis  
Vanessa  
Western Bakhuis  
Ensing  
Guiana Cobalt  
Brazilian Yellow Head  
Citronella  
Nikita



Written by:



Natasha  
Patricia  
Cobalt  
Inferalanis  
Giant Orange  
Yellow Back  
Lorenzo  
Lawa  
Oyapok  
Mons Atachi Bakka  
Table Mountain  
Green Sip  
Blue Sip  
Powder Blue  
La Fumee

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

**Enclosure Size:** Tinctorius are some of the largest and most territorial dart frogs, growing from 1.5-2" in length. As such, the larger the space, the better. For 1-2 individuals, a 10 Gallon tank is the minimum. For up to 3 individuals, the minimum is a 20 gallon tank or 18x18x18. For 4 individuals, a 20 gallon may also suffice, or a 24x18x18. The larger the tank, the less likelihood of territorial disputes and the more foraging space for these larger dart frogs. The optimal tank size is a 20 gallon or 18x18x18/18x18x24 tank. 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:** Tinctorius are very territorial and are best kept in pairs. The absolute maximum number within any sized tank is 4 individuals with caution. Aggression typically arises around 10-12 months of age and after when hormones drive females to compete over males and egg laying sites. Although uncommon, two alpha males can fight over a singular female as well (generally occurs when adding a male to an already established pair. A dynamic of 2-3 males to one female or two males to two females in a large enough tank can work with individuals that have been raised together, while one male and 2-3 females can often mean infighting amongst the females. Additionally, if a significantly smaller individual is introduced, they are very likely to be bullied and are not likely to survive, so it is best to get similarly sized frogs from the beginning due to this aggressive nature. If starting with 4 tinctorius, it is recommended that once sexable, a male and female be separated from the group and the two remaining frogs be sold or traded to prevent the potentiality of infighting.

**Typical Gender:** Tinctorius can be sexed around 10-12 months of age. They are often female heavy and groups of 3 will typically have just one male. Males typically have larger toe pads, less girth/smaller size, and a less angular back. This is not true with all localities though as females from some localities do display large toe pads (such as La Fumee).

**Tank Setup:** Tinctorius are heavier 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 both high risk drowning hazards and present a greater risk of bacterial infection if stagnant/not maintained every 2-3 days. Additionally, female tinctorius will often try to drown their competition in water features; therefore we generally do not recommend water features in their tank. Since these are terrestrial dart frogs, tinctorius need as much floor space as allowed and will benefit significantly from a longer tanks with more horizontal space than taller tanks with narrower footprints. Tinctorius do well with lower ventilation and high humidity, making a glass top a necessity over a fully ventilated mesh top as well.

**Personality:** Along with their aggressiveness comes a bold attitude. Tinctorius make excellent beginning dart frogs because they are rarely shy, are not as prone to ventilation or moisture related ailments as other dart frogs, and are generally larger, more active frogs. Tinctorius will eventually learn to come to the front of the tank to "beg for food" and are some of the most personable dart frogs in the hobby besides phyllobates terribilis.