

Dendrobates truncatus

***Dendrobates truncatus* encompasses the following localities:**



Yellow (Nilo)

Blue

Written by:



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

Enclosure Size: Truncatus are medium sized dart frogs, growing from 1-1.25" 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 truncatus do not do well if they become tangled in plant roots or unable to freely move about the tank to forage due to overgrowth. The optimal starting tank size is a 20-gallon tank or 18x18x18, but again a well planted 10 gallon tank will suffice for up to 2 individuals.

Group Behavior: Truncatus are generally peaceful but can become stressed if too many individuals are kept in a small space. Females will often eat each other's eggs. While bullying is rarely observed and truncates do seem to do well in groups, it is important to provide a minimum of 5 gallons of well planted tank space per individual and 10 gallons of space for optimal captive conditions. Large groups of 8-10 individuals can be kept together in a larger enough tank, but egg-eating will be much more commonplace with more females.

Typical Gender: Truncatus are difficult to sex and are slightly female heavy. While girth is often the primary way to guess sex, observing calling is the best way to distinguish a male.

Tank Setup: Truncatus generally stay low to the ground and prefer to forage through the leaf litter. They 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, truncatus 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. Truncatus do well with much lower ventilation and higher humidity, making a glass top a necessity over a fully ventilated mesh top as well. Truncatus are more prone to "drying out" than some other dart frogs such as 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 truncatus will hide under the leaf litter when conditions are too dry.

Personality: Truncatus are typically shy dart frogs, but some individuals are bolder than others. Truncatus can 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, are generally peaceful, and are generally larger, more active frogs; however, their shy nature may not make them a prime choice for those who want bolder dart frogs. Truncatus can be slightly more prone to escaping than tinctorius or leucomelas as they 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.