

Epipedobates

***Epipedobates* encompasses the following species and localities:**

***antonyi*:**

Santa Isabel

Rio Saladillo

Ankas

Zarayunga



***tricolor*:**

Highland

Cielitos

Rio

Morospunga

Written by:



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

Enclosure Size: Epipedobates are a small sized terrestrial dart frog growing to around 1" in length. For 1-2 individuals, a 10 Gallon tank or 12x12x18 is the minimum. For 3-6 individuals, a 20 gallon or a 24x18x18 is the minimum recommended size. In general, 5 gallons of space per frog is recommended. These dimensions assume a well-planted tank. Plants provide more hiding places and visual barriers in addition to buffering against temperature and humidity swings.

Group Behavior: Epipedobates are some of the most peaceful and communal dart frogs, allowing for a surprisingly large population to be kept with enough tank space to reduce over competition for food. Egg eating is relatively rare and many epipedobates lay rather large clutches (sometimes in the same space). Males will guard the eggs and transport tadpoles to water features and newly morphed froglets can be raised with the parents with very minimal losses due to the peaceful nature of the adults. Aggression is extremely rare with epipedobates and they can be quite prolific, as exemplified with *Epipedobates antonyi* Santa Isabel.

Typical Gender: Epipedobates reach sexual maturity rather quickly and can be sexed around 8-10 months of age. They are slightly female heavy. While Epipedobates can be difficult to sex, generally females display more girth and males can be easily determined by observed calling. Males (especially those of the Santa Isabel locality) can be quite loud and will call or "sing" generally with great frequency.

Tank Setup: Epipedobates are better swimmers than most dart frogs (second only to Amereega), but are still terrestrial in nature. Paludariums and water deeper than their back are both drowning hazards and present a greater risk of bacterial infection if stagnant/not maintained every 2-3 days. Any water features provided should have a filtration system or be changed 2-3 times a week and be ½ inch or shallower in depth. Although Epipedobates are mostly terrestrial in nature, some localities can be frequent climbers, making it worth investing in more height if possible. Epipedobates do well with much lower ventilation and higher humidity, making a glass top a necessity over a fully ventilated mesh top. Often times, Epipedobates will hide under the leaf litter when the tank is too dry.

Personality: Epipedobates can range from being relatively bold (such as Santa Isabel) to very shy (such as cielitos). While more prone to escape from front opening tanks due to their ability to hop long distances relative to their size and inclination to being startled, they can make excellent beginning dart frogs due to their overall robustness and peaceful nature. Epipedobates are not as prone to ventilation or moisture related ailments as other dart frogs and generally seem more resistant to bacterial infection than other dart frogs. They additionally have some of the loudest and most impressive calls. For those first getting into the hobby who want a very robust, bold, and loud dart frog, yet one which is very peaceful and communal in nature, it is hard to beat *Epipedobates antonyi* Santa Isabel.