

Phyllobates

Phyllobates encompasses the following species and localities:

terribilis

Mint
Orange
Yellow

Yellow
Blackfoot

vittatus

lugubris



bicolor: aurotaenia:

Uraba Yellow
Orange Green

Black Leg

Golden

Written by:



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

Orange
Blackfoot

Enclosure Size: Phyllobates vary dramatically in size from the miniscule *lugubris* (1") to the medium *vittatus* and *aurotaenia* (1.25-1.5") to the heavy weight *terribilis* and *bicolor* (1.75-2"). For 1-2 individuals, a 10 Gallon tank is the minimum, although the optimal beginning size (Especially with *terribilis* and *bicolor*) is a 20-gallon or 18x18x18. For 3-4 individuals, a 20 gallon or a 24x18x18 is the minimum recommended size. In general, 5 gallons of space per frog is recommended for *lugubris*, *vittatus*, and *aurotaenia* and 10 gallons of space per frog for *terribilis* and *bicolor*. The larger the tank, the more foraging space for these small to large 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 phyllobates 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: *Phyllobates* are some of the most peaceful and communal dart frogs, even for their generally large size and voracious appetite, allowing for a large group to be kept safely as long as there is enough tank space to reduce over competition for food. Egg eating is relatively rare and many *phyllobates* lay rather large clutches (sometimes in the same space). Males will guard the eggs and transport tadpoles to water features. Aggression is extremely rare with phyllobates, although *bicolor* and *terribilis* will definitely eat anything they can fit in their mouths.

Typical Gender: Some *phyllobates* reach sexual maturity rather slowly and can be difficult to sex. While *lugubris* reaches sexual maturity around 10 months and *vittatus/aurotaenia* around 12 months, *terribilis* and *bicolor* can take 1.5-2.5 years before laying viable clutches. In general, it appears that *phyllobates* are generally not weighted heavily towards either sex. While *phyllobates* can be difficult to sex, generally females display more girth and males can be easily determined by observed calling. Males can be quite loud and will call or "sing" generally with great frequency.

Tank Setup: *Phyllobates* are terrible swimmers in general (*vittatus* and *aurotaenia* are decent at swimming as dart frogs are concerned) and are 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. *Phyllobates* do not often climb, but can if provided easy to reach perches. Ensure that there are no spots that remain constantly damp in the tank as *phyllobates* such as *terribilis* and *bicolor* are EXTREMELY sensitive and susceptible to bacterial infections. Higher ventilation is needed to keep these dart frogs, such as including a 1" strip of screened ventilation along with a glass top to maintain property humidity of around 70-90% (80% is optimal).

Personality: *Phyllobates* can range from being relatively shy (such as *vittatus*) to extremely bold (*terribilis*). While *vittatus* can be more prone to escape from front opening tanks due to inclination to being startled, they (along with *aurotaenia* which are a bit bolder) can make excellent beginning dart frogs due to their overall robustness and peaceful nature. *Phyllobates bicolor* and *terribilis* are considered more intermediate to advanced care due to their being prone to ventilation or moisture related ailments and susceptibility to bacterial infection, although they are extremely bold, making them one of the most enjoyable and personable dart frogs to keep. *Phyllobates lugubris* can make an excellent beginning to intermediate dart frog to keep as they are semi-bold and less prone to bacterial infection, although they are quite uncommon in the hobby.