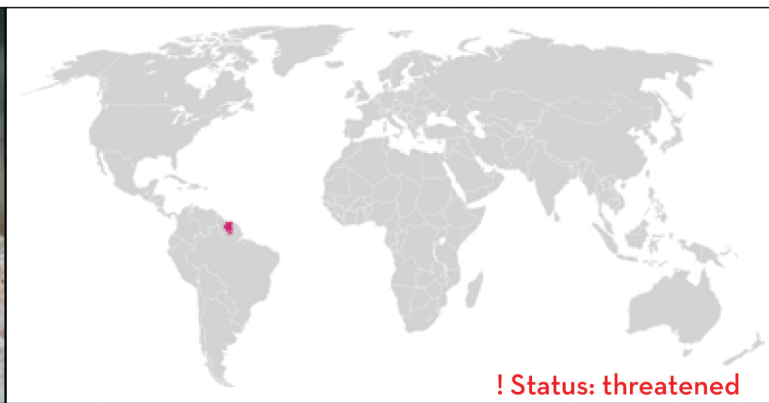


BLUE POISON DART FROG

updated 03/17



Range	Suriname, near the Brazilian border in South America
Habitat	Tropical rain forests, found near water sources in dark moist areas, especially under rocks near streams
Diet (wild)	Variety of arthropods, including ants, beetles, flies, mites, spiders, termites, maggots and caterpillars
Diet (captivity)	Flightless fruit flies and 10-day old crickets
Description	Length: 2 inches. Bright blue colored, legs are usually darker with a unique pattern of black spots on each frog (like a fingerprint). Females will be slightly larger and males will have longer heart-shaped tips on its toes. The feet have four toes each with suction cup pads that are used for clinging and climbing.
Lifespan	Wild: 4–6 years. Captivity: 10 years
Reproduction	The female will lay 5–10 eggs that are placed in a moist mossy area under rocks or logs. The male takes up primary care of the eggs by both defending them and maintaining egg moisture by excreting water on them. The eggs will hatch in 14–18 days and the tadpoles will attach to the males back with their mouths as he carries them to a small pool of water nearby. These are often tiny pools formed in tree holes or the center of flowers. Tadpoles are frequently placed in different pools, as they will become cannibalistic if there isn't ample food. After transporting the tadpoles to the pool, the male no longer cares for the young. However, at this point the female will frequently visit the tadpoles to lay unfertilized eggs that provide the tadpoles with food. Once the tadpoles metamorphose into adults 10–12 weeks later, all parental care will end. The young frogs will reach sexual maturity at about two years of age. In the wild, breeding takes place during the rainy season (February and March). In captivity, the frogs will breed year round. Males call out and the females who answer the calls will fight aggressively over the male. The pair then seeks out a secluded area near water to lay the eggs.
Behavior	The poison secreted by the skin of poison dart frogs is a result of the insects (especially ants) they consume in the wild; living in captivity eliminates the poison. Indigenous people traditionally rub hunting darts across the skin of the frogs to help them kill their target, which inspired the name “poison dart frog.” Poison dart frogs are diurnal and move constantly with short leaps. They are known to be bold, aggressive, and very territorial. Males are especially known to fight over territories while both sexes will defend their territory from frogs of the same and different species. Aggressive behavior usually consists of calling, chasing, and wrestling between members of the same sex.
Our animals	2 undetermined sex. Born: 01/2011
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like most poison dart frogs, the blue poison dart frog has evolved aposematic coloration as a warning to potential predators that it will make an unpalatable or toxic meal.

Phylum
Chordata

Class
Amphibia

Order
Anura

Family
Dendrobatidae

Genus
Dendrobates

species
D. tinctorius azureus