

## Poison Arrow Frogs

(*Dendrobates auratus*- green & black)  
(*Dendrobates azureus*- blue)

**Habitat and Distribution:** Rainforest floors of Central and South America.

**Size:** Up to 1½ inch

**Wild Diet:** Insects; in the wild, they eat ants that contain high amounts of alkaloids in their tissues. The frogs concentrate the alkaloids in their skin, which is what makes them toxic.

**Predators:** Not many animals will risk eating a poison arrow frog, as the toxin can cause paralysis or even death.

**Life Span:** 4-6 years

**Reproduction:** The female lays up to six eggs in a small pool of water. The eggs are encased in a gelatinous substance. During the next two weeks, the male returns to the eggs regularly to check on them. When the tadpoles hatch from the eggs, they climb onto the male's back and he carries them to a lake or stream. At this point, the tadpoles are on their own. It will take them about 6 weeks to develop into adult frogs.

**Behavior:** These frogs are most active during the day. Males use vocalizations to establish territories and to attract females during the breeding season. They have very good eyesight, and catch their prey with a sticky, retractable tongue.

**Conservation Connection:** Secure; however their rainforest home is threatened.

**Interesting Facts:** These frogs have poisonous glands on their skin. Their vivid colors act as a warning to would-be predators. These frogs also have suction-cupped pads on their toes that help them grip surfaces when they are climbing.

