

Ranitomeya benedicta

Found on thefrogglady.org

Difficulty: Beginner - Intermediate

First discovered in 2005 and nicknamed the blessed poison frog, spiderman frog or simply bennies, they have fairly consistent coloring on their torso with red heads and upper backs with a blue green on their lower back and legs and separated by a thick bank of black. Most often located between the 150m and 405 m elevation levels climbing through leaf litter, shrubs, trees and above the forest floor. In the United States, there are 3 sources imported via Understory Enterprises.

Locale/ Variants

Shucushuyacu - Original import. Typically pastel blue reticulations on the black back and legs.

Pampa Hermosa - Second import in 2012. These lack the pastel blue reticulations and have a dark blue or even have no blue and are just red and black.

Yellow Head - The newest import. As the name implies, these have a yellow head instead of the typical red head. These have been found to be a consistent breeder once they get started, however they are not as explosive of a breeder as other variants.

Terrarium Design

Ranitomeya benedicta will appreciate a lush tank oriented in the vertical orientation filled with lots of leaf litter, bromeliads and driftwood to provide adequate foraging opportunities.

Terrarium Size

QTY	10 GAL VERT.	20 GAL	18x18x24 OR 29 GAL HORZ.
1			
PAIR			
3-4			
5-7			

Temperature

Ranitomeya benedicta prefer low to mid-70°F's but will tolerate temperatures between 65°F-80°F; any temperature over 85°F can be fatally dangerous.

Temperatures can be decreased overnight to 63°F-70°F to mimic their natural conditions.

Humidity

Humidity should maintain between 75-100%. Ranitomeya benedicta can tolerate as low as 50% for a short period of time if they have access to clean water. Low humidity tank level without fresh water can be fatal.

Lighting

Lighting shall be provided on a 12 on/ 12 off day night timer to mimic their natural conditions. I would recommend a light temperature of 6,500K or brighter for healthy plants.

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Food/Feeding

Bennies will eat melanogaster fruit flies as a staple in their diet. Full grown adults will consume hydei as well. All Ranitomeya benedicta will enjoy isopods & springtails.

Other feeder insects: springtails & isopods.

Supplements

Repashy Calcium Plus - dust on flies every feeding

Vitamin A - Once a month on breeding adults only

Groups/ Social Behaviors

Ranitomeya benedicta frogs are very sociable and do well in groups. Once juvenile benedicta's hit 5-8 months, the tank dynamics will change as the frogs will begin to reach sexual maturity. Females dynamics may result in eating each other's eggs or wrestling but as long as adequate hiding & barriers are provided they should stay harmonious. Groups of same sex frogs have been found to be docile & amicable towards each other.

Sexing

An adult female tends to be significantly larger than the male and will be pear shaped, where the male will stay slim. Only males will call. Their calls are similar to a very soft low buzz and may not be heard if there is external noise in your frogroom.

Breeding

Best kept in a pair. Males will call females to suitable egg laying sites where the female will lay 3-8 eggs on a smooth surface (leaf litter, bromeliad or film canister) every 7-14 days. Film canisters can be upside down vertically or horizontal. Eggs will hatch into tadpoles within 14-16 days. Males will carry tadpoles on their backs and will deposit into a water filled film canister or the water cavity that has accumulated within the plants.

Eggs

Ranitomeya benedicta is notorious for laying eggs within the leaf litter. Eggs can be raised in the tank by their parents or hand raised outside of the terrarium.

Tadpoles

It will take between 60-80 days for the tadpole to complete metamorphosis. Tadpoles will eat dead algae, fruit flies and tadpole food.

Froglets

Newly emerged froglets will spend the majority of their time in the leaf litter on the floor of the terrarium. During the first 10-14 days, small fruit flies can be managed, however springtails will almost exclusively be eaten. Once froglets are 6-8 weeks old, they can be removed from their parents and can be communally raised in a simple tank or rehomed. Older juveniles will be better adjusted and ready for new surroundings.