

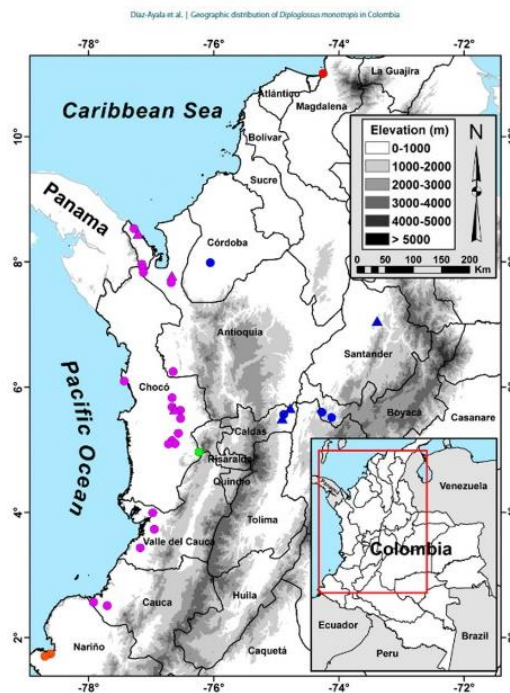
# Keeping of Costa Rican rainbow stripe (*Diploglossus monotropis* (Kuhl, 1820)) at BION Terrarium Center

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Costa Rican rainbow stripe (*Diploglossus monotropis* (Kuhl, 1820)) is a genus of New World diploglossid lizards, with 19 described species, commonly known as galliwasp. They are diurnal and terrestrial lizards. They are found in regions of rainforests and monsoon rainforests of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador (Fig. 1). This species is not common and hard to find in nature because of their lifestyle as they like to hide and borrow themselves in substrate and dry foliage. Maximum known life span in captivity was reported to be 12 years ([https://genomics.senescence.info/species/entry.php?species=Diploglossus\\_monotropis](https://genomics.senescence.info/species/entry.php?species=Diploglossus_monotropis)). This species has nocturnal activity.



**Figure 1.** Current distribution of *Diploglossus monotropis* in Colombia, showing previously known (circles) and new (triangles) records. The color marks indicate the

biogeographic provinces sensu Morrone (2014): blue (Magdalena), green (Cauca), orange (Western Ecuador), red (Guajira), and violet (Chocó-Darién).

### **Keeping and breeding requirements**

In January 2016, the breeding group of Costa Rican rainbow stripe (*Diploglossus monotropis*) in BION included 3 adult males and 4 females. The group was imported from Panama in December 2013.

**Terrarium.** We use glass terrariums of 70\*50\*50 cm (28\*20\*20 in) for keeping one adult animal or a pair. We keep them separately due to their very aggressive character and keep pairs together only during the breeding season. We use dry foliage, fine bark chips, sphagnum moss, coconut fiber or chips in one mixture. The substrate level should be not less than 10-12 cm (4-5 in) for comfortable digging and security of these lizards (Fig. 2). According to our observations, they are active only early in the morning and at the dusk.



**Figure 2.** *Diploglossus monotropis* inside the decorated terrarium.

Interior decoration includes a large water bowl as these lizards like to stay in the water and soak moisture. A few shelters inside the enclosure are provided. We use pieces of bark and bamboo tubes. During the breeding season, we use moist chambers (boxes with damp moss) for females to make clutches.

**Lighting.** Full spectrum lamps are provided: 8 hours from August till April and up to 14 hours of lighting from April till August.

**Temperature.** We don't use additional heating and keep the daytime temperature at +26 - +28 °C (78.8 - 82.4 F) and +22 - +24 °C (71.6 - 75.2 F) at night.

**Humidity.** We keep the humidity of 50-60% at the enclosure and of 70-80 % in the soil. We provide intensive spraying of the substrate on a regular basis twice a day.

**Diet.** Food is offered 2-3 times a week. We usually offer crickets and locusts by 5-6 pieces for each adult animal. Also, we give one pink mouse (one week old) per each animal once or twice a month. During molting (10-14 days), lizards do not eat at all. We use Calcium with D3 and vitamin powder every second feeding (by dusting insects).



**Figure 3.** Visual difference between mature *Diploglossus monotropis* male and female.

## References

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