

# 130 poisonous frogs seized at Bogota airport

January 30 2024

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A member of Colombia's national police shows one of the frogs seized at the Bogota airport on January 28, 2024, in a picture released by Bogota's Environment Secretary.

Authorities in Colombia seized 130 poisonous frogs being trafficked through the Bogota airport on Monday and arrested the Brazilian woman carrying them.

The woman was transporting the colorful harlequin poison frogs (*Oophaga histrionica*) inside film containers while traveling to Sao Paulo with a stopover in Panama.

She "claimed that a local community had given them as a gift," Bogota Environment Secretary Adriana Soto said in a video shared with media.

Harlequin frogs are venomous, measure less than five centimeters (two inches) and live in damp forests along the Pacific coast between Ecuador and Colombia, as well as in other countries in Central and South America.



Harlequin frogs such as these discovered in a suitcase at the Bogota airport, are venomous, measure less than five centimeters and live in damp forests in South and Central America.

"This [endangered species](#) is sought after in international markets," said Bogota Police Commander Juan Carlos Arevalo, adding that private collectors might pay up to \$1,000 for each.

The police reported that the woman carrying the frogs was arrested "for the crime of wildlife tracking" before being handed over to the prosecutor's office.

Animal trafficking is common in Colombia—one of the most biodiverse countries in the world—especially of amphibians, [small mammals](#) and marine animal parts, such as those of sharks.

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