

注意到 $f(x) = ae^{x-1} - \ln x + \ln a \geq 1 \iff e^{\ln a + x - 1} + \ln a + x - 1 \geq x + \ln x$

令 $g(x) = e^x + x$

则 $f(x) \geq 1 \iff g(\ln a + x - 1) \geq g(\ln x)$

显然 $g(x)$ 单调递增

故 $f(x) \geq 1 \iff \ln a + x - 1 \geq \ln x \iff \ln a \geq \ln x - x + 1$

令 $h(x) = \ln x - x + 1$

则 $f(x) \geq 1 \iff \ln a \geq h_{\max}(x)$

因为 $h'(x) = \frac{1}{x} - 1 = \frac{1-x}{x}$ 所以 $h_{\max}(x) = h(1) = 0$

所以 $f(x) \geq 1 \iff \ln a \geq 0 \iff a \geq 1$

综上 a 的取值范围是 $[1, +\infty)$