**Sambava Tomato Frog**

*Dyscophus guineti*

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**Scientific Name**

*Dyscophus guineti*

**Other Names**

None

**Range**

Four distinct populations along eastern Madagascar

**Habitat**

Rainforest

**Description**

A medium sized frog with bright yellow to orangish-red coloring, a black eye line extending toward the body and green eyes. Females are larger than males and more brightly colored.

**Average Size**

Length: 3 – 4 in.

Weight: 80 – 100g.

**Lifespan**

In the wild: 8 years

In captivity: 10 + years

**Diet**

In the wild: Insects

In captivity: Crickets and mealworms

**Incubation**

36 hours

**Sexual Maturity**

9 – 14 months

**Clutch Size**

1000 – 1500 eggs

**Predators**

Snakes and birds of prey

**Population Status**

Not Threatened

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**Behavior**

This nocturnal, terrestrial frog spends the dry, winter months underground or buried in dirt and leaves. They are not strong swimmers, preferring slow moving waterways, but can spend a good portion of their time in the water. As with many types of frogs, the male Sambava Tomato Frogs are the most vocal and can often be heard at night, calling to maintain territory or attract females. Although they can move rapidly when needed, they are ambush predators that prefer to wait for insect prey to cross their path; they even hunt in the water for aquatic prey.

Their bright coloration acts as a warning to predators that they are toxic should be left alone. If this camouflage fails, the Tomato Frog inflates its body with air to look large and imposing and can secrete a sticky, milky toxin from skin glands that will repel most predators.

**Reproduction and Breeding**

Breeding in the wild for the Sambava Tomato Frog occurs in the cool, winter months of the year, when males begin calling at night to attract mates. There is a fine line to manage making sure the calls are loud and strong enough to attract a mate, but not loud enough to attract predators.

When a female approaches, the male will increase the frequency of his call before climbing onto her back, grasping near her front legs as she lays several hundred small eggs, then releasing sperm to fertilize the eggs.

After a few days to weeks, the eggs hatch into tadpoles which must sift food out of the water to eat. The tadpoles change into froglets within a few weeks, depending upon the temperature, and will be fully metamorphosed in two months.

**Conservation**

This species of tomato frog is not considered threatened due to the extent of its habitat and the fact that it adapts well to living in cultivated areas, gardens and eucalyptus plantations. Loss of habitat, primarily clean water areas for breeding, is always of utmost concern. Because they are an island species, the Sambava Tomato Frog is more vulnerable to loss of habitat as they are unable to move to another region.

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**Amazing Facts**
A tropical species, this frog likes temperatures around 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

The milky substance this frog secretes when threatened is so sticky it becomes like glue inside the predators mouth.

There are three species of tomato frog on the island of Madagascar.