

Amazon Milk Frog

Trachycephalus resinifictrix

Amphibian

Scientific Name

Trachycephalus resinifictrix

Other Names

Blue Milk Frog, Mission Golden-eyed Milk frog, Amazonian Cave Frog, Milky Frog

Range

Northern South America including Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana, Southern Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Brazil

Habitat

Rainforest

Description

A large, gray frog with brown and black banded patterns over the entire body, a long snout and large pads on the feet. The skin is bumpy and rough in texture. Juveniles are more distinctly colored and females are larger than males.

Average Size

Length: 2.5 – 4 in.
Weight: 40 – 50 g.

Lifespan

In the wild: Estimated at 15+ years
In captivity: Up to 25 years

Diet

In the wild: Insects, spiders, small invertebrates and amphibians
In captivity: Crickets, worms and flies

Incubation

1 day

Sexual Maturity

1 year of age

Clutch Size

2,500 eggs

Predators

Snakes, lizards, birds, small mammals

Population Status

Stable



Behavior

Amazon Milk Frogs are an arboreal (tree-dwelling) species that live high in the canopy of the rainforest. They are very communicative, with their vocalizations commonly heard when they are most active at dusk and dawn. The males are especially vocal during breeding season while they try to attract mates. During the daylight hours, they remain hidden under leaves and vegetation above streams. When threatened or stressed, Amazon Milk Frogs release a milky white secretion that, although not as poisonous as other frog toxins, can cause a predator to become sick.

Reproduction and Breeding

In the wild, the breeding season for this frog coincides with the rainy season of November through May. The male is responsible for finding a suitable water-filled hollow in a tree or bromeliad where he sits patiently and calls for females. Once the female arrives, she hops into the hollow and lays a clutch of about 2000 eggs which the male then fertilizes. This ends the active care from either parent, although they may remain in the vicinity of the hatching site.

Once the tadpoles hatch, they must find insect prey inside their treetop habitat and fend for themselves. It will take three to five weeks to metamorphose into froglets depending on a variety of environmental factors including humidity. At that point, the frogs leave their natal area to carve out a territory of their own.

Conservation

The IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) lists these frogs as a species of Least Concern due to their extensive range and currently stable population.

Environmental studies have shown that in certain areas of their range, this species is hampered by habitat loss due to agriculture and logging. As with all amphibians, Amazon Milk Frogs are susceptible to pollution and toxins in their habitat and are considered an indicator species that warns of future environmental degradation.

The Sacramento Zoo works with conservation organizations worldwide in an effort to increase awareness of chytridiomycosis, a widespread, infectious fungal disease that has devastated wild frog populations worldwide. For more information, please visit our website at saczoo.org.



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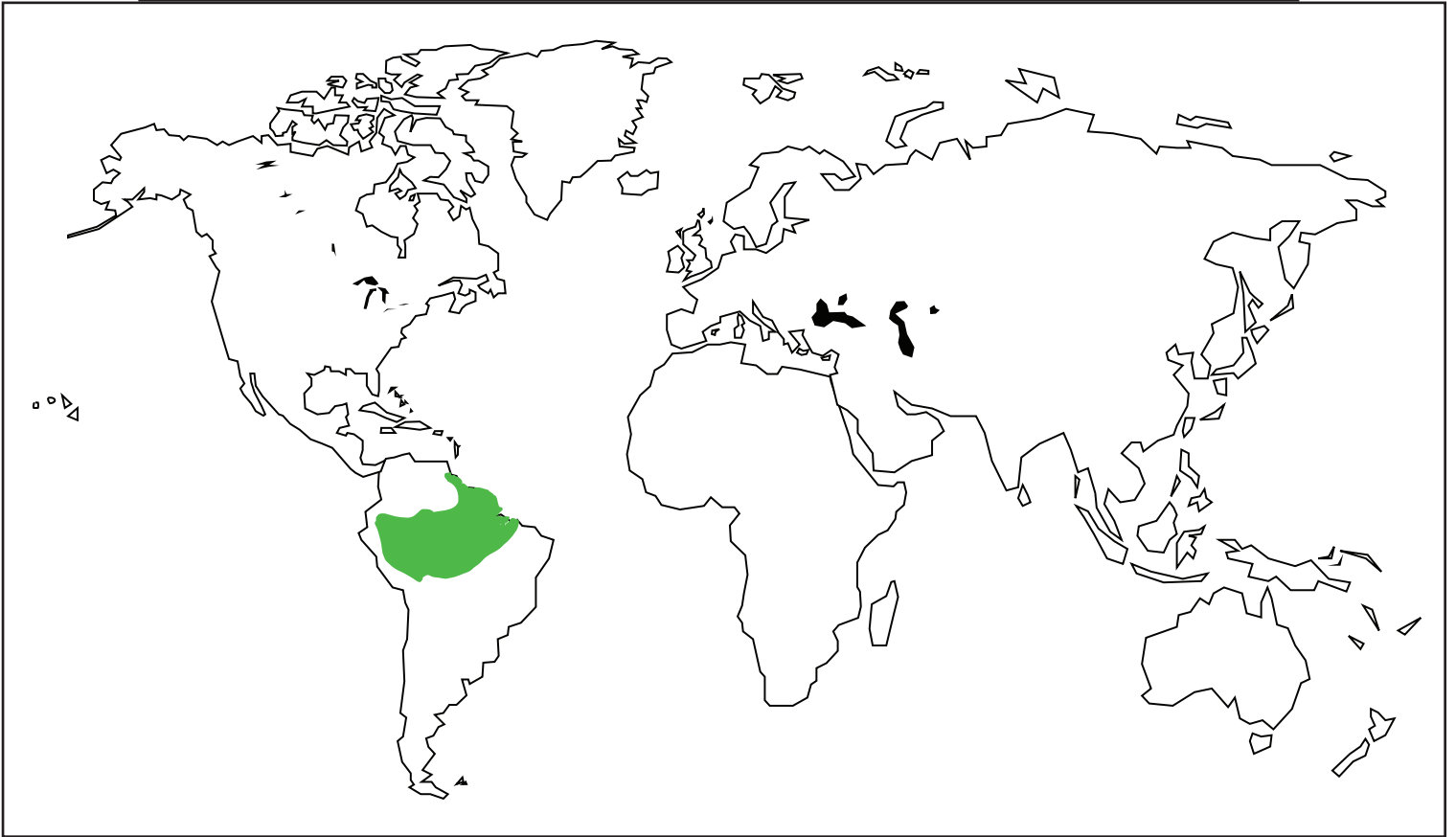
Amazing Facts

The name Milk Frog refers to the poisonous, white, milky toxin that this species may secrete when threatened.

Because of their large vocal sacs, the males of this frog species are able to make extremely loud calls.

Once the female lays her eggs, the male will continue with his mating calls to attract another female. But, when the next female comes, he will not fertilize her eggs when she deposits them. Instead, they become food for his already hatched tadpoles to eat.

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