



# SMOKEY JUNGLE FROG

Anura

Family: Leptodactylidae

Genus: *Leptodactylus*

Species: *pentadactylus*



**Range:** Southern Central America to northwestern South America south to Peru

**Habitat:** lowland, seasonally flooded, tropical rainforests

**Niche:** nocturnal; leaf litter, carnivorous

**Wild diet:** frogs, snakes, lizards, small birds and mammals, larger invertebrates

**Zoo diet:** mealworms, crickets, and mice

**Life Span:** up to 15 years wild

**Sexual dimorphism:** males have black spines on chest muscles and thumbs, and elongated vocal slits

**Location in SF Zoo:** South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

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## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

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The Smokey Jungle Frog is a large frog that resembles the American bullfrog in length and overall appearance. Their general coloration is dark brown to gray with the limbs having darker striping, and a lighter belly. Some specimens have a reddish patch on the sides between the limbs. They have large tympanic membranes visible behind the eyes and a dark line from the nose through the eyes leading to the front legs. Toes with are not webbed as this is not an aquatic species. They have red eyes.

<b>Weight:</b>
<b>Length:</b> up to 8 inch
<b>Width:</b>

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## STATUS & CONSERVATION

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Species is common throughout its range

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## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

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Males are territorial and call to the females to attract them for mating during May to November, the rainy season. Males court females with a whistling or hooting call produced by the vocal sac that can be heard over long distances.

They also have a loud alarming call that sounds similar to a cat's "meow". When threatened, they blow up their body and stiffen their limbs to make it difficult for a predator to eat them.

They ambush their prey by lying in wait.

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## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

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Breeding takes place at the water's edge, although they do not lay eggs in the water. These frogs are foam nesters; during amplexus, the male rubs his legs together creating a foamy mass around the fertilized eggs. The female lays about 1,000 eggs within the foam in a cavity or hollow depression, either occurring naturally or dug up by the male. They are typically by pools or temporary puddles so that the tadpoles get washed into them by rainfall. In some cases, the tadpoles will develop in the foam if it is too dry to wash them into pools, and they develop into frogs in the nest eating the foam, un-hatched eggs, and sometimes other tadpoles.

Tadpoles are quite large. Only about 6,5 % of the eggs are fecundated by the male. The rest serves as food for the carnivorous and cannibalistic tadpoles once hatched.

Estrous:	Sexual Maturity:
Gestation:	Weight at birth:
# of young:	Length at birth:

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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This species has been known to be eaten by indigenous tribes of the Amazon basin, although their skin secretions are quite toxic.

Predators include coatis, snakes, and caimans

### Sources:

created: 4/2008, updated 4/2015  
[http://amphibiaweb.org/cgi-bin/amphib\\_query?query\\_src=&table=amphib&special=one\\_record&where-genus=Leptodactylus&where-species=pentadactylus](http://amphibiaweb.org/cgi-bin/amphib_query?query_src=&table=amphib&special=one_record&where-genus=Leptodactylus&where-species=pentadactylus)  
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<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/frogs-a-chorus-of-colors/featured-frog-species/frog-legs>