



RED-EYED TREE FROG

Anura
Family: Hylidae
Genus: *Agalychnis*
Species: *callidryas*



Range: Central America through Northern South America
Habitat: lowland rainforest areas near ponds, streams and rivers.
Niche: Nocturnal, arboreal, mainly insectivorous
Wild diet: flies, moths, crickets and sometimes other frogs
Zoo diet:
Life Span: 5 years
Sexual dimorphism: female slightly larger than male
Location in SF Zoo: South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Red-eyed tree frog has bright green skin and yellow and blue vertically striped sides with webbed feet and toes of orange or red. They have red eyes with elliptical pupils. They have three eyelids, one of which provides camouflage to their bright red eyes. The sticky pads on its toes enable it to climb trees and cling to leaves. Their neon-green bodies may play a role in deterring their nocturnal predators; the vibrant colors of this frog may over-stimulate a predator's eyes, creating a confusing, creating a confusing ghost image that remains behind as the frog jumps away.

They are non poisonous. They use their long sticky tongues to ambush unsuspecting insects.

Weight:
Length: 1.5 – 2.75 inch
Width:

Adults can change their color to a darker green or reddish-brown as their mood changes. Young are brown in coloring and change to green as they mature to adult frogs.

STATUS & CONSERVATION

Red-eyed tree frogs are not endangered but their habitat is rapidly being reduced. Their highly recognizable image is often used to promote the cause of saving the world's rain forests. The threats it faces are the declining rainforests and disease. They are an indicator species and generally suffer from environmental effects at an earlier time than other animals and can therefore be used to alert humans to environmental changes in their habitat.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

During the day, they remain motionless, cover their blue sides with their back legs, tuck their bright feet under their stomachs, and shut their red eyes. They are often found on the underside of a leaf. They appear almost completely green, and well hidden among the foliage. Sensing a predator, the red-eyed tree frog will quickly open its eyes to reveal a bright red that will startle the predator. Additionally, the frog takes its legs from under its belly to show off its bright blue and yellow side strips and orange feet. The predator pauses, startled by the sudden burst of color (known as "startle coloration"). This gives the red-eyed tree frog the moment it needs to escape to safety from a bird or snake.

These frogs hunt for prey or just silently wait for prey to approach.

During mating season, the male frogs shake the branches where they are sitting to improve their chances of finding a mate by keeping rivals at bay. When rainfall is at its highest, a male red-eyed tree frog calls "chack" to get the attention of the female.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

During amplexus, the male inseminates the eggs as they emerge from the female; the female carries the male on her back for up to several hours or longer during the oviposition process. The female chooses a leaf above a pond or large puddle, on which to lay her clutch of eggs. When the eggs hatch the fluid that was inside the eggs assist in washing the tadpoles down into the water. The eggs develop into small tadpoles, which hatch after six to seven days and fall into the water below. The tadpoles remain in the water from three weeks to several months, until they metamorphose into frogs. The young frogs that survive the first few weeks after metamorphosis move into the undergrowth and security of plants near their natal pools, often into the hollows of tubular plants such as bromeliads.

Incubation: 6 – 7 days	Sexual Maturity: 2 years
# of young:	Weight at birth:
	Length at birth:

MISCELLANEOUS

Sources:

<http://www.redeyedtreefrog.org/information/>

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/amphibians/red-eyed-tree-frog/>

<http://www.rainforestanimals.net/rainforestanimal/redeyedtreefrog.html>

http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Agalychnis_callidryas/

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