

Red-Eyed Tree Frog

The red-eyed tree frog is just one of many species of frog that lives in the rainforest.

Appearance

As their name suggests, they are mainly known for their huge, bright red eyes. Many scientists believe that their red eyes work as a way of startling predators. When disturbed, they open their eyes and flash the distinctive colour, possibly taking other animals by surprise, to give themselves an opportunity to hop to safety.

The rest of their body is neon green in colour, with a hint of blue and yellow at the sides. They have specially adapted suctioncup toes which help them to cling on to tree branches and leaves.

The male frog is around two inches long, while the female is slightly bigger at up to three inches in length.

Diet

Red-eyed tree frogs are generally considered to be carnivores and mainly eat at night. Their most common prey includes moths, crickets, flies and grasshoppers but they have been known to eat most creatures that fit into their mouths. This could even include other smaller frogs! They hide under leaves and in other concealed spots to ambush their prey with long sticky tongues.

Habitat

They are commonly found in the tropical lowland rainforests or surrounding hills. They mostly inhabit areas close to rivers or ponds and are excellent swimmers. As they are also very capable climbers, they attach themselves to the underside of leaves. This is where they rest during the day as well as clinging to branches and trunks.

Interesting Facts

- Their average lifespan in the wild is around 5 years.
- Male frogs can quiver, and even shake the branch of the tree where they are residing, in order to attract the attention of the females. This is accompanied by a loud croaking in order to establish their territory.

