

Tiger Legged Monkey Frog

Scientific Name: *Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis*

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Family: Phyllomedusidae



The Tiger Legged-Monkey Frog is also called the Northern Orange-legged leaf frog and is found in northern South America. The frog is quite small (up to 6 cm long) and females are slightly larger than males. The frog is colorful being green on the upper side of its body and orange with black stripes (reminiscent of tiger stripes) on the lower side and legs. It also has a striking silvery eye. It belongs to a group of frogs known as Waxy Monkey Tree Frogs who have wax secreting glands on their back, elbows and backend. The wax is rubbed all over their bodies, and seals in the moisture allowing them to take advantage of drier

conditions than other amphibians. Their legs are very long and have sticky pads on each of their toes, which help them to climb from branch to branch.

Range

They range across northern South America, including Guyana, Brazil, and Suriname.

Habitat

They live in pristine tropical rainforests and tend to live on trees around temporary pools during the wet season.

Gestation

Typical frog development occurs in about 12 weeks, from fertilized egg to froglet.

Litter

They can lay as many as 100 eggs at a time.

Behavior

This species is nocturnal and spends most of its day above ground hiding and sleeping in trees and tall shrubs during the day, coming out at night to catch insects. The name 'monkey frog' comes from this frog's tendency to move around by walking instead of hopping which resembles the movement of a monkey.

Reproduction

In the Amazon Rainforest, they breed during the wettest half of the year from November to May. Males will begin calling from trees and plants after being spurred on by heavy rains and the formation of suitable ponds and pools for breeding. The female lays eggs in leaves above the water and wraps them up in a nest which they seal together with jelly to protect them. As the tadpoles begin to form and grow, they eventually wriggle free from the egg jelly, and will fall into the pool below.

Wild Diet

Insects