

# Sambava Tomato Frog

**Scientific Name:** *Dyscophus guineti*

**Class:** Amphibia

**Order:** Anura

**Family:** Microhylidae



A medium-sized frog, with females about 2 inches long and males are smaller. There are two dorsilateral folds on the smooth back. The back is orange to red with small black spots. The underside is uniformly yellowish, sometimes with black spots on the throat. There is a wide, dark brown line from the eye back to the forelimb. The forefeet are not webbed, and the rear leg webbing is variable. Juveniles are yellow on the back and dark on the flanks.

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## Range

Madagascar

## Habitat

Forest leaf litter, near swamps, shallow pools or water-filled ditches

## Gestation

Eggs hatch after about 36 hours; tadpoles take about 2 months for development

## Litter

Clutch size: about 1,000 small black and white eggs, deposited on surface of water

## Behavior

It is nocturnal, being active in the evening and at night. It is a burrowing frog, spending most of its time half-hidden in underbrush waiting for food, or protecting itself from predators. The characteristic calls of this species can be heard at evening and night, and sometimes during the day from swamps and pools after a heavy rain. They can inflate themselves as a defense against predation. The whitish skin secretions can produce allergic reactions in humans.

## Reproduction

Males mount the females for sperm transfer. Breeding is accomplished in stagnant or very slow-moving water. The tadpoles are transparent filter feeders that float horizontally in mid-water.

## Wild Diet

Insects, worms, larvae