

Red Eyed Tree Frog

Agalychnis callidryas



Physical Characteristics

- Bright green color with a blue underside and orange hands and feet, red eyes
- Males are usually smaller than females.
- Large suction cup pads on toes
- Start out brown and turn colors as they get older. Adults can change color to a darker green or brownish red as their mood changes.

Size

- Length: 2-3 inches

Lifespan

- Wild: Unknown
- Zoos: 4 years

Behaviors

- They are nocturnal.
- If a predator approaches, it will quickly open its eyes. It is thought that the sudden flash of red may be enough to scare off predators.
- During mating season, males will croak and jump from leaf to leaf to establish territory. Males will also quiver at each other to intimidate others and show strength.
- A female will slowly come down from the tree and multiple males will fight to establish the best position riding on her back until she can find a place to lay her eggs.
- As ambush predators, they will wait for prey to come to them and then attack

Diet

- Wild: carnivorous, small insects
- Zoo: small insects

Reproduction

- Breeding Interval: continuous during the rainy season
- Clutch Size: up to 70 eggs
- Breeding Behaviors: Males start by croaking to attract females. When a female is ready, the male will attach to her back and she will find a good spot to lay her eggs. Males will then fertilize the eggs as they are being laid. The eggs are usually laid on the underside of leaves above water instead of in water like most frogs. Reproduction is hard for these frogs

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Tropical rainforests near rivers
- Range: Found throughout most of Central America

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Although not threatened, their habitat is threatened by deforestation and climate change. They are also popular in pet trade.



Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Amphibia
- Order: Anura
- Family: Phyllomedusidae
- Genus: *Agalychnis*
- Species: *callidryas*

Interesting Facts

- Their red eyes are thought to either be to scare predators, or to help them see at night but we are not completely sure.
- They are environmental indicators of how the rainforest is doing overall and they are a symbol of saving the rainforests
- They have very good suction cups on their toes to help them climb flat surfaces.