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Tomato frog

Dyscophus antongilii

Tomato frogs live in Northeastern Madagascar in rainforests, coastal forests, scrubs and urban areas.

Quick Facts

Length: Males are 2.3-2.5 inches (6-6.5 cm) and females are 3.3-4 inches (8.5-10.5 cm)

Appearance: Yellow-orange to orange-red with a pale belly

Life Expectancy: About 10 years

Diet: Small insects

Range: Northeastern Madagascar

Behavior: Its bright red coloration serves as a warning to potential predators of its toxic secretions

- An ambush predator, the tomato frog waits for unsuspecting prey to pass by.
- When threatened, the tomato frog puffs up into a rounded tomato shape and emits a sticky toxin through its skin that is unpalatable to predators. The toxin can cause an allergic reaction in humans.
- The tomato frog is commonly found in the Madagascar town of Maroantsetra, which has been nicknamed the “tomato frog village.” Residents often find these frogs in their gardens.
- Breeding occurs from February to March after heavy rains when males call to the females from ditches, pools and marshes.
- A female tomato frog will lay over 1,000 eggs on the surface of the water. The eggs hatch about 36 hours later.
- Tadpoles become tiny froglets after about 45 days.

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