

Mountain chicken frog

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About Mountain chicken frog:

- The mountain chicken frog (**Leptodactylus fallax**) is **one of the largest frogs in the world** and can weigh over 40 times as much as a European common frog, reaching up to 1kg in size.
- It was **endemic to seven Caribbean islands**, including Montserrat and Dominica
- The predator eats a variety of animals, including insects, snakes, small mammals, and even other frogs.
- Officially named the **Giant Ditch frog**, the species is commonly known as the mountain chicken.
- **Appearance:** Its reddish brown and cream colour provides effective camouflage against the leaf litter of the forest floor.
- Its large, drumstick legs hold enough power to jump high enough to clear a standing adult human
- **Threats:** Combinations of habitat destruction, invasive species and hunting have contributed to its decline.
- It was majorly affected by the introduction of the **deadly fungal disease, Chytridiomycosis**.
- **Conservation status**
 - **IUCN:** Critically Endangered

What is Chytridiomycosis?

- It is **an infectious disease** that affects amphibians, especially frogs worldwide.
 - It is caused by either of two species of amphibian **chytrid fungus**.
 - They are called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.
 - It is an emerging disease that is significantly impacting amphibian populations across the globe.
 - The disease has caused the decline or complete extinction of over 200 species of frogs and other amphibians.
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Q1) What are Amphibians?

Amphibians are a class of vertebrate animals known for their unique life cycle, which typically involves an aquatic larval stage and a terrestrial adult stage.

Source: [Dominica's mountain chicken frog vanishes from island in 'fastest extinction ever recorded'](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/mountain-chicken-frog/>

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