

Darwin's Frog

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Darwin's Frog Latest News

Recently, Chile has launched a new effort to save the endangered Darwin's frog.

About Darwin's Frog

- Darwin's frog (*Rhinoderma darwinii*), also called the **southern Darwin's frog**.
- **Features of Darwin's Frog**
 - It is unique among **amphibians for its brooding habits**.
 - It is a tiny amphibian with leaf-like skin whose **males carry tadpoles within pouches in their mouths**.
 - It is a **diurnal creature**, meaning it sleeps at night and is mostly active during daytime.
 - When threatened by predators, **the frog plays dead**. It lays very still on the forest floor or floating in a stream.
 - It measures 3 cm (1.18 inches), was discovered in Chile's southern Chiloe islands by Charles Darwin during his 1834 trip around the world.

- **Distribution:** It is a rhinodermatid frog native to the forest **streams of Chile and Argentina.**
- **Habitat:** It is found in a **variety of vegetation types** and it appears that a mixture of grassland, mossy areas, coarse woody debris, and young trees and bushes in a mature native forest provides its optimum habitat requirements.
- **Diet:** Darwin's frog feeds on insects and other arthropods.
- It **actually comprises two:** the endangered **Rhinoderma darwinii (Southern Darwin's frog)** and the **Rhinoderma rufum (Northern Darwin's frog)**, which is categorized as "**critically endangered**" and has already virtually disappeared.
- **Threats:** Forest fires, climate change, invasive species and urbanization have hurt the humid forests of southern Chile and Argentina where Darwin's frog typically lives.

Source: TH

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