

Calyptocephallela gayi

December 20, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Calyptocephallela gayi:

- It is also known as **Helmeted Water Toad** which hopped alongside dinosaurs and is considered a “**living fossil**”.
- It is one of the largest frogs in the world, growing up to over 30 cm (1 foot) in length and weighing up to 1 kg (2.2 lbs).
- **Appearance:** It is a robust species with a broad head and large mouth. It is very large, and can reach a snout-to-vent length of up to 15.5 cm (6 in) in males and 32 cm (13 in) in females.
- **Habitat:** They inhabit aquatic environments, such as **lakes, rivers and ponds**.
- **Distribution:** They are found in the **lowlands of Chile**, up to 500 m in elevation.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN:** Vulnerable
- **Threats:** Factors such as climate change, habitat interruption, environmental decline and pollution have all caused the Helmeted Water Toad’s numbers to dwindle.

Q1: What is a living fossil?

It refers to an 'archaic' species that has survived for a long time, whose anatomy harks back to an early stage in the group's evolutionary tree and has remained unchanged for much of that period.

News: Chile's giant 'living fossil' frog faces threat from climate change and humans

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/calyptocephallela-gayi/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.