

Galaxy Frog

January 3, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Galaxy Frog Latest News

According to the study, a group of seven galaxy frogs vanished, all likely to be dead, after multiple photographers descended on their habitat.

About Galaxy Frog

- Galaxy frogs (*Melanobatrachus indicus*) are one of the rarest and most **dazzling amphibians** in the world.
- The frog belongs to the **family Microhylidae** and sub-family Melanobatrachinae.
 - Its dorsal **region is warty and speckled** with bluish-white spots that resemble stars in the night sky, hence the name 'Galaxy frog'.
- It has been **declared the flagship species** of **Mathikettan Shola National Park** in Idukki , Kerala
- **Appearance:** It measures just 2 centimetres-3.5 centimetres and **has shiny black skin dotted** with pale blue speckles, resembling a clear night sky studded with stars.
- **Habitat:** It **nestles under logs** and stones on the forest floor at **elevations above 900 metres**.

- **Distribution:** It is endemic to **wet evergreen forests** of southern Western Ghats in **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** states of India.
- **Conservation Status: IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable

Characteristics of Galaxy Frog

- Unlike other frogs, the Galaxy Frog **doesn't have a vocal sac** and hence it can't be identified through its calls.
- The **bright-coloured spots** are being inferred to aid the frog in communication.
- It is a nocturnal species and **extremely sensitive to light**.
- It **absorbs water and oxygen through their skin**, so moist air is a must for this species.
- They keep their **skin moist by secreting a slimy secretion** called mucus to breathe through the skin.
- **Threats:** Major threats to these creatures are the **conversion of forest areas to farm land**, firewood collection and landslide and **Photo tourism** has emerged as a new danger to galaxy frogs.

Source: IE

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

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