



Milk Frog

Trachycephalus resinifictrix



Attila, Genghis, and Napoleon

Our keepers are unsure of our birthdays, but we have lived at the Racine Zoo since 2018. We live in the Discovery Center, near the zoo's Main Entrance. We are named after the "Punk Frogs" from the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* T.V. show!

MILK FROGS AT A GLANCE



- A milk frog's eyes help them swallow their prey. They can push them down into the roof of their mouths to help push food down their throat.
- In the wild, they like to eat insects and other small invertebrates.
- At the zoo, their favorite foods are crickets and mealworms.



- They have specialized toe pads that help them climb slippery, wet surfaces.
- Their toe pads can hold up to 14 times their own body weight



- The frogs have smooth, slimy skin with bumps. It acts like a giant lung and allows gas exchange for them to breath.
- To not get eaten, they secrete a "milky" white substance that is toxic.

Male size:
up to 2.5 inches



Female size:
4+ inches

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: up to 10 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care: up to 20 years

WHERE ARE NATIVE MILK FROG HABITATS LOCATED?



Milk frogs are arboreal and they prefer to live in the canopies of tropical rainforests throughout South America. Their populations can range across Guyana, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru.

Milk Frog Behavior

CROAKING

I like to make noises to communicate with others. I usually make them when I am most active at dusk and dawn.

If I am a male, I get especially vocal during the breeding season to attract mates.



HIDING

I am nocturnal so during the day I like to remain hidden under leaves or dark places.

If you don't see me, I am in a place where I can sleep and feel comfortable



HYDRATION

I breathe through my skin. I need my skin to be moist and wet to allow the gases to exchange. Sometimes I will secrete a mucus to keep my skin nice and healthy.

I might be soaking in the water or at a wet area to keep nice and wet.



PEELING?

Just like reptiles, I peel and replace my old skin. On occasion, I will start to remove my old skin and refresh with the new!

If I look like I have loose skin or skin hanging, I am in the process replacing my outer skin.



- Males will vocalize from a water-filled tree cavity to better carry sounds to attract mates.
- They will lay eggs during the rainy season, with a clutch of 2000+ gelatinous eggs laid inside tree cavities.
- Tadpoles hatch within 24 hours - an adaptation for laying eggs in temporarily water-filled holes in trees.
- Milk frogs are also known as mission golden-eyed tree frogs.
- Milk frogs have long snouts that they use to move branches and leaves aside while finding a small space to hide in during the day.

Milk Frog Conservation

Rainforests in the Amazon are threatened by deforestation and fragmentation. Deforestation put all animals at risk for habitat loss, reduced food availability, and increased predation.

They are listed as **Least Concern**. However, Amazonian amphibians are threatened by **chytrid fungus**. This fungus attacks the frog's skin and makes it difficult for them to breathe. If not treated, the frog will eventually suffocate and die.



How can we help?

Amphibians are important indicator species for water pollution and quality. We can help them out by reducing the use of fertilizer and pesticide on our lawns and yards. We can reduce soil erosion by planting plants with a great root system to keep soil in place. Plants have the added bonus of acting like a sponge to absorb pollutant runoff.