



# AMAZON MILK FROG

ANURA

Family: Hylidae

Genus: *Trachycephalus*

Species: *resinificatrix*



**Range:** Northern South America (Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela)

**Habitat:** Tropical rainforest canopy (rarely, if ever, descends to the ground)

**Niche:** Nocturnal, arboreal, insectivorous

**Wild diet:** Insects, spiders, other invertebrates and small amphibians

**Captive diet:**

**Life Span:** (Wild) 25 years  
(Captivity)

**Sexual dimorphism:** Females are larger than males

**Location in SF Zoo:** South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

---

## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

---

Amazon Milk Frogs are light grayish in color tree frogs with beautiful patterns of brown or black banding while juveniles display stronger contrast. Adult's skin develops a slightly bumpy texture. They have large toe pads to cling to branches while climbing; they are some of the best climbing frogs in the Amazon.

The genus *Trachycephalus* refers to their long snouts which are used for pushing aside leaves and branches and allowing this nocturnal frog to tuck itself into tight hiding places during the day. The name "Milk Frog" refers to the poisonous, white secretion this frog may secrete when threatened.

**Weight:**

**Length:** 2.5 – 4 in

---

## STATUS & CONSERVATION

---

Amazon Milk Frogs are not significantly threatened at this time, but current loss of habitat due to agriculture and logging could lead to endangerment. Amazon milk frogs are widely distributed and exist in large populations. However, like all amphibians, they are highly vulnerable to pollution because of their porous skin. The Amazon milk frog has become relatively common in the pet trade due to successful captive breeding programs.

---

## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

---

This species is most active at night and is known for its loud vocalizations. During the day they sleep in the vegetation high above streams.

---

## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

---

Amazon milk frogs usually breed during the rainy season (November-May). The male stakes out a body of water (often inside a tree hollow or bromeliad) and uses his large vocal sacs to produce loud calls, attracting a female who lays up to 2000 eggs for him to fertilize. He then calls for a second female who lays eggs that will become food for the developing tadpoles. Tadpoles hatch after only one day and go through metamorphosis over the next three weeks.

<b>Incubation Period:</b> 1 day <b># eggs:</b> 2,000 - 2,500 eggs	<b>Metamorphosis:</b> 3 weeks
--	-------------------------------

---

## MISCELLANEOUS

---

Amazon milk frogs get their Latin name “trachycephalus” from their elongated snout. They use their snout to push leaves and branches out of the way, so they can crawl into hiding places during the day.

### **Sources:**

<http://beardsleyzoo.org/amazonmilkfrog-fk1>

<http://www.auduboninstitute.org/animals/frogs-beyond-green/amazon-milk-frog-3022>

<http://www.pdza.org/amazon-milk-frog/>

created 12/2014