

GIANT DITCH FROG

Leptodactylus fallax

Müller, 1926



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Family: Leptodactylidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED



RARE



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Identification : One of the largest frog species, reaching a body length of 21 cm. Very large eyes. Coloration variable from dark brown to chestnut brown. Some specimens display black banding, others are spotted. Flanks more orange, belly yellowish.

Range: Formerly found in many islands of the Caribbean, now only occurs on Montserrat and Dominica.

Habitat : Secondary forest, scrubland and plantations, always near water.

Behavior: Nocturnal species, spending its day resting in a burrow. Feeds on insects, invertebrates, small reptiles and amphibians. Larvae feed on unfertilized eggs

Status in the wild: The species is now extinct in much of its range because of hunting for food, habitat degradation and natural causes such as volcanic eruptions.

In captivity: The species' captive population in Europe is monitored by a Studbook coordinated by Chester Zoo and Jersey Zoo. It's kept in 20 European collections. World's first breeding occurred in 1999. Rare or absent in captivity outside Europe.