

Litoria longirostris

Miriam Supuma, 2004

Authority: Tyler and Davis, 1977

Common Name: Sharp-Snouted Tree Frog or Long-Snouted Tree Frog

Description (Hero *et al.*, 2004; McDonald and Storch, 1993; Tyler and Davis 1977): *L.longirostris* head appears flattened and long. Nostrils are spaced closely together. The snout is prominent; it is sharp and angular. Fingers are unwebbed, thin, and long with very large oval terminal discs and an absence of lateral fringes. Toes are less webbed with conspicuous wide oval terminal discs. Dorsal and ventral skin is generally smooth. However, dorsal skin has presence of minute tubercles on top eyelids while ventral skin lacks well developed granules on lower parts of the abdomen and thigh surface. Vocal sac present in males in the submandibular region. Nuptial pads are covered with pigments.

Similar Species (Tyler and Davis, 1977): *Litoria timida* of New Guinea is the most similar species to *L.longirostris*. The difference is that the canthus rostralis is more defined in *L.timida*. The vomerine teeth in *L.longirostris* are not well developed and also the digital discs appear larger than the New Guinea species. In terms of size, females show no difference whereas male of *L.longirostris* have a greater snout vent length.

Range (Hero *et al.*, 2004; McDonald and Storch, 1993; Tyler and Davis 1977): Confined to the McIllwraith Range in Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, thus it is considered a rare species. *L.longirostris* occupies an estimated area of 23,000 hectares. Within the estimated area, the extent of occurrence of *L.longirostris* is 7,100 km².

Ecology and Behaviour (McDonald and Storch, 1993; Tyler and Davis 1977): *L.longirostris* inhabits dense rainforests streams. The species has been encountered sheltering in buttress tree roots and on rocks along rainforest stream.

Breeding Biology (Baker, Grigg and Tyler 1995; McDonald and Storch, 1993): Breeding season is around September. Male calls can be heard from leaves over streams or still ponds. In females, lime coloured eggs can be seen through the groin skin. Eggs laid are lime coloured and range in numbers from 29-60. The eggs are laid above water and under leaves, or on tree trunks, on rocks, or on palm fronds and within the vicinity of gently flowing stream or still ponds.

Literature cited:

Barker J., Grigg G. and Tyler M. 1995. *A field Guide to Australian Frogs*. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, NSW

Hero J.M., Alford R.A, Cunningham M, and McDonald K.R 2004. AmphibiaWeb: Information on amphibian biology and conservation. [web application]. 2004. Berkeley, California: AmphibiaWeb. Available: <http://amphibiaweb.org/>. (Accessed:Dec 7, 2004).

McDonald K.R. and Storch D. 1993. A new reproductive mode for an Australian hylid frog. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 34:200.

Tyler M.J. and Davis M. 1977. A new species of Hylid frog from Northern Australia. *Copeia* (4) 620-623.