

LITORIA ***MIRA***





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Recently, a team of Australian scientists has discovered a curious "**chocolate frog**" tree frog i.e. **Litoria Mira** in the lowland rainforests of New Guinea.

A species of frog lives in the rainforests of New Guinea that appears to be made from chocolate just like the magical sweets popular in the wizarding world of J K Rowling's Harry Potter.



About *Litoria Mira*

It is a **species of frog** lives in the **rainforests of New Guinea** that appears to be made from chocolate.

It is inspired by the **Latin adjective mirum**, which means **surprised or strange**



It stems from the scientist's surprise in discovering an **undescribed member of the predominately Australian Litoria genus** of tree frogs.

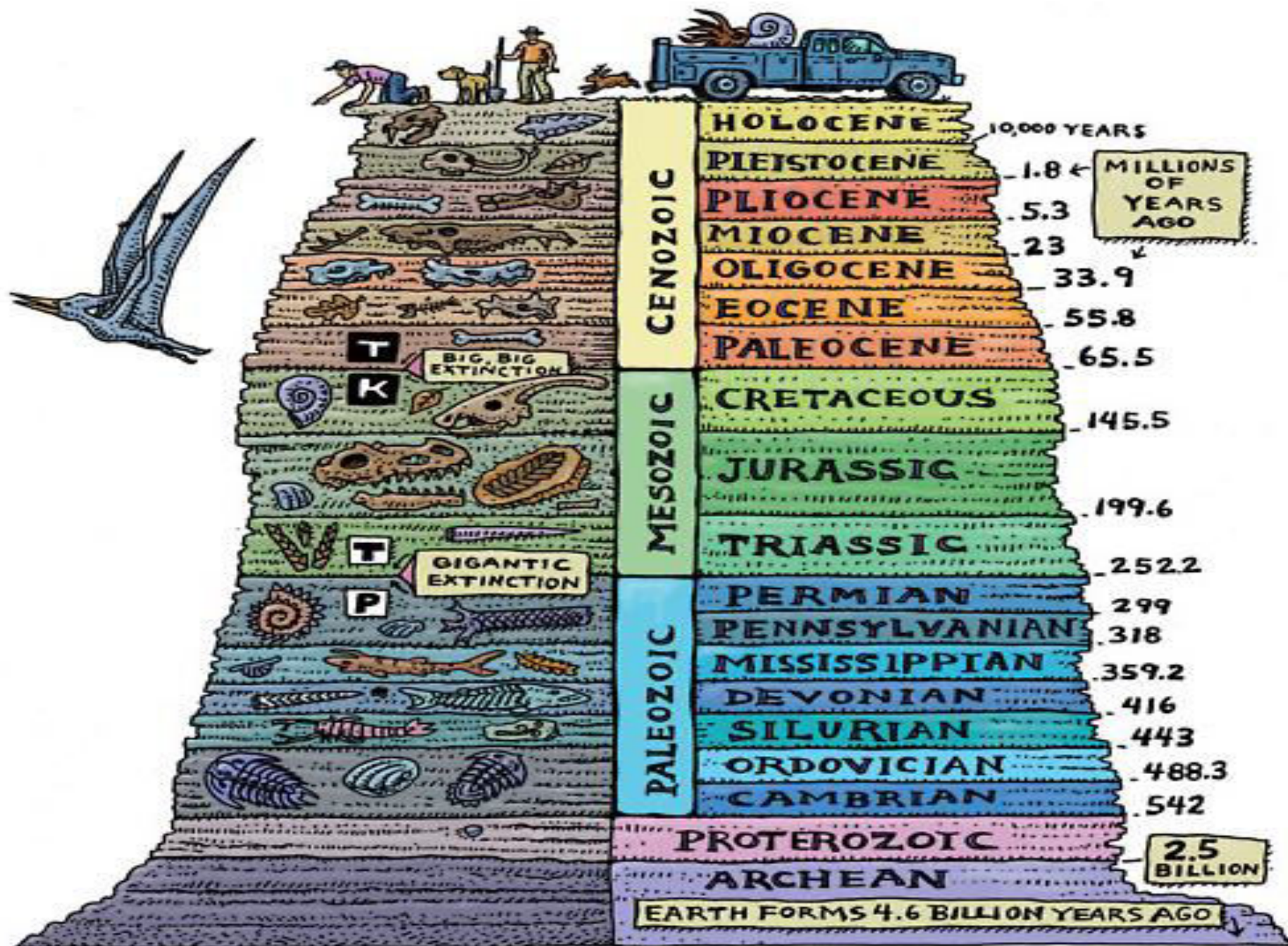
It has a well-known relative i.e. the **common green tree frog** of Australia called **Litoria cerulean**.

Significance Of Discovery

It cleared a theory that Australia and New Guinea were linked through a land bridge thousand years ago

Australia and New Guinea used to be linked by land for much of the late Tertiary period (2.6 million years ago) and share many biotic elements.







However, today the island of New Guinea is separated from the 'horn' of Queensland by the Torres Strait. New Guinea is dominated by rainforest, and northern Australia by the savannah.

Hence, the two frog species have now evolved to become genetically distinct to a point where they will not be able to breed.







It was discovered in one of the world's most **unpleasant places for humans** i.e. a hot rainforest swamp infested with malarial mosquitoes, spiky trees and crocodiles and without roads.



OTHER NEW SPECIES OF FROGS

PRELIMS FACTS



Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog

A new species of tree frog, discovered in West Bengal, has been named **Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog** (*Polypedates bengalensis*) due to a series of six to nine dark brown blotches present on its body.

It is a **mid-sized tree frog** and is the **26th species** under the genus *Polypedates*.

Polypedates is a genus of tree frog found throughout South and Southeast Asia.



Genus Rohanixalus

Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog found in the Andaman Islands and the northeast,

Named after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda, the frogs of the new genus Rohanixalus are characterised by a rather small and slender body (size about 2 to 3 cm long).



It has a pair of contrastingly coloured lateral lines on either side of the body, minute brown speckles scattered throughout the upper body surfaces, and light green coloured eggs laid in arboreal bubble-nests.





Based on DNA studies, the new genus is also revealed to be a distinct evolutionary lineage from all previously known tree frog genera.

It is the 20th recognised genus of the family Rhacophoridae that comprises 422 known Old World tree frog species found in Asia and Africa.

Unique features of this genus

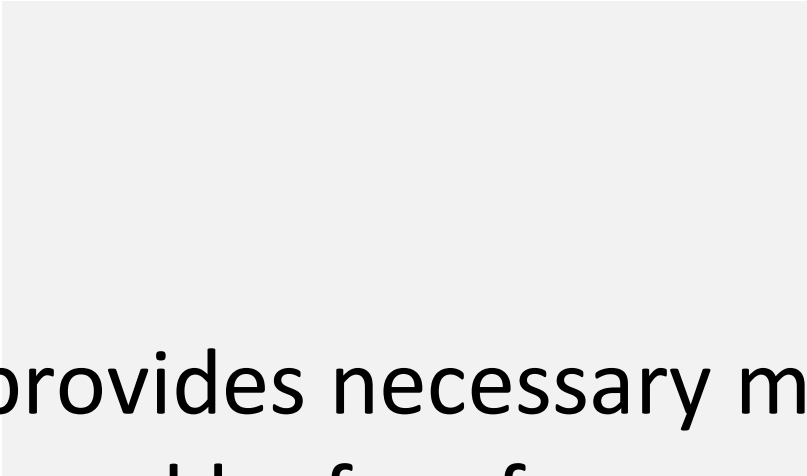

The genus has several unique behavioural traits including maternal egg attendance where the female (mother) attends the egg clutches until hatching and assists in the release of the tadpoles into the water.



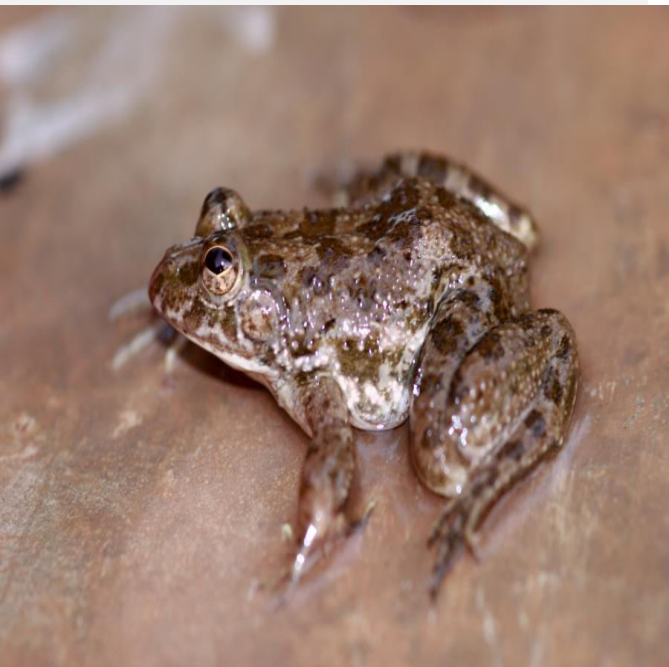


During the first three days after egg-laying, the female sits over the eggs and produces a gelatinous secretion with which she glazes the egg mass through the clock-wise movement of her legs.





This behaviour provides necessary moisture to the eggs laid on exposed leaf surfaces and protects them from insect predation.



Indian Skipper Frog

The species is **widely distributed in South Asia and South-east Asia**, from southeastern Iran, southern Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and eastern India at low to moderate elevations.

They are often seen **at the edge of bodies of water** with their eyes above the water.

They noisily move away from the shore when disturbed, giving them their common name.

It is classified as **least concern** by the IUCN



Pierre's Wart Frog

It is found in **India** and its adjacent **countries** Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.

It is a common species associated with **paddy fields**.

It is classified as **least concern** by the IUCN.



Nepal's Wart Frog

It is a **small-sized frog native to northern and northeastern India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.**

It is classified as **least concern** by the IUCN.

Consider the following statements with respect to Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog

1.It is commonly found in the deep jungles of the state of West Bengal.

2.It belonged to the genus Polypedates and its body colour is yellowish-brown to greenish-brown.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- (a). 1 only
- (b). 2 only
- (c). Both 1 and 2
- (d). Neither 1 nor 2

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