

Kerala Stream Toad

The Kerala Stream Toad, also known as *Blaira rubigina*, is a small amphibian species that is native to the Western Ghats in India. This toad is a unique species, with interesting features that distinguish it from other toads in the region. Although the Kerala Stream Toad has a limited range, it plays an important role in its ecosystem and is an important species to conserve.

Characteristics	Description
Name	Kerala Stream Toad
Scientific Name	<i>Blaira rubigina</i>
Colour	Dark brown with white spots and patches
Habitat	Shallow streams and rocky pools
Indian states where its found	Kerala
IUCN status	Endangered (EN)

Features

The Kerala Stream Toad is a small toad species, with males reaching a maximum length of 3.6 cm and females reaching 4.2 cm. The toad has a distinct red coloration on its belly, while the dorsal side is brown with irregular white spots. The skin on the back is covered in small warts, giving the toad a rough appearance. The toad also has webbed toes, which are well-suited for its aquatic lifestyle.

Habitat and Food

The Kerala Stream Toad is found in the streams and small water bodies of the Western Ghats, primarily in the state of Kerala.

The toad is mainly active during the monsoon season, when the streams are flowing and breeding activity takes place. The toads are known to feed on small invertebrates, such as insects and snails.

Where is it found in India

The Kerala Stream Toad is endemic to the Western Ghats region of India, and is primarily found in the state of Kerala. The species is known to inhabit small streams and waterfalls in the region, and has a limited distribution range.

Importance to Ecosystem

The Kerala Stream Toad plays an important role in the ecosystem of the Western Ghats. As a predator of small invertebrates, the toad helps to regulate populations of insects and snails in the streams and water bodies where it lives. Additionally, the toad is an indicator species, which means that its presence or absence can be used to monitor the health of the ecosystem. The Kerala Stream Toad is also an important cultural and religious symbol in the region, and is featured in local folklore and traditions.

IUCN Status

The Kerala Stream Toad is currently classified as “Critically Endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The toad faces a number of threats, including habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. The toad’s limited distribution range also makes it particularly vulnerable to extinction. Conservation efforts are underway to protect the toad and its habitat, including the creation of protected areas and the implementation of conservation programs.