

Kudremukh Bush frog

Kudremukh bush frog, scientifically known as *Raorchestes tuberochumerus*, is a small tree frog found in the Western Ghats region of India. These frogs are known for their bright green color and their characteristic croaking sound. They are an important part of the ecosystem in which they live and play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of their habitat. In this article, we will explore the various features, habitat, and importance of the Kudremukh bush frog.

| Characteristics | Description |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Kudremukh bush frog |
| Scientific Name | <i>Raorchestes tuberochumerus</i> |
| Colour | Shades of brown with dark patches |
| Habitat | Shola forests, coffee plantations |
| Indian states | Karnataka and Kerala |
| IUCN status | Endangered (EN) |

Features

The Kudremukh bush frog is a small-sized frog that measures around 3-4 cm in length. The male frogs are slightly smaller than the female frogs. These frogs have a bright green color with a white underbelly. They have a rough, warty skin with large eyes. The pupils of their eyes are horizontally elliptical, and the iris is metallic green. The tips of their toes and fingers are slightly expanded, which helps them to climb trees and bushes easily.

Habitat and Food

The Kudremukh bush frog is found in the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats region of India, particularly in the states

of Karnataka and Kerala. They are arboreal in nature, and hence are found in the trees and bushes of the forest canopy. These frogs are primarily insectivorous and feed on small insects like flies, beetles, and ants. They are known to be active during the night when they come down from the trees to feed.

Where is it found in India

The Kudremukh bush frog is endemic to the Western Ghats region of India, particularly in the states of Karnataka and Kerala. They are found in the evergreen forests of this region, which is known for its rich biodiversity.

Importance to ecosystem

The Kudremukh bush frog plays an important role in maintaining the ecological balance of the Western Ghats region. As insectivores, they help in controlling the population of small insects, which can otherwise cause harm to the vegetation in the forest. They are also an important food source for predators like birds, snakes, and other larger animals. The presence of these frogs in the forest is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem and the presence of a rich biodiversity.

IUCN status

The Kudremukh bush frog is currently listed as “Critically Endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The primary reason for their decline in population is habitat loss due to deforestation and fragmentation of their natural habitat. The destruction of their habitat has also led to a decrease in their prey population, making it difficult for the frogs to survive in the wild. Conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration and protection, are needed to ensure the survival of these

frogs in the wild.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Kudremukh bush frog is a small but important part of the Western Ghats region's ecosystem. They play a crucial role in controlling the insect population and are an important food source for predators. However, their population is declining due to habitat loss, making it necessary to take immediate conservation measures. By conserving their habitat, we can ensure that these beautiful and unique creatures continue to thrive in the wild.