

## *Lithobates palmipes* (Amazon Frog)

Family: Ranidae (True Frogs)

Order: Anura (Frogs and Toads)

Class: Amphibia (Amphibians)



**Fig. 1.** Amazon frog, *Lithobates palmipes*.

[<http://www.inaturalist.org/photos/2909265>, downloaded 6 October 2016]

**TRAITS.** Other common names of *Lithobates palmipes* (formerly known as *Rana palmipes*) include rana verde verdadera (Spanish), Amazone kickker (Dutch) and spring chicken (Downie, 2013). Webbing on the fingers is absent while it is present on the toes (Fig. 1). Length is between 50-120mm (Campbell, 2016). The dorsal colour is green with posterior brown spots, and the juveniles have a similar colour pattern (Oubouter and Jairam, 2012) (Fig. 2).

**DISTRIBUTION.** This frog is found near ponds, slow flowing rivers and other permanent water sources in South America's Amazon basin (Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, the Guianas, Bolivia and Venezuela), the northern Atlantic forest (Paraíba to Sergipe in Brazil) as well as the south-east corner and the Central Range of Trinidad (La Marca et al., 2010) (Fig. 3).

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY.** *L. palmipes* is nocturnal. It lives in and around ponds, slow flowing rivers and other permanent water sources usually in tropical forests (La Marca et al., 2010). Frogs are carnivorous creatures. The diet of those in the family Ranidae (of which *L. palmipes* is a part) includes insects and invertebrates but they usually feed on anything that will fit into their mouths (Wikipedia, 2016).

**REPRODUCTION.** The mating call by males is done at the end of the rainy season (Ouboter and Jairam, 2012). Atlantic forest populations breed throughout the year and eggs masses are deposited in clumps in slow moving streams and ponds (Hillis and De Sa, 1988; La Marca et al., 2010). Tadpoles develop in the water and grow up to 80mm. They are whitish grey and spotted in black and brown. Vocalizations are important in this species for mating purposes as well as marking of territory (Hillis and De Sa, 1988).

**APPLIED BIOLOGY.** There are minimal threats to the entire species generally. Populations in Peru are threatened, however, by the introduced species *L. catesbeianus* (the American bullfrog). Populations may also be impacted negatively due to loss of habitat. *L. palmipes* is listed as of Least Concern on the IUCN Red List and is therefore not endangered (La Marca et al., 2010). In south-eastern Venezuela, the Ye'kwana highly appreciate the Amazon River frog as food. (Barrio-Amorós and Brewer-Carias, 2008)

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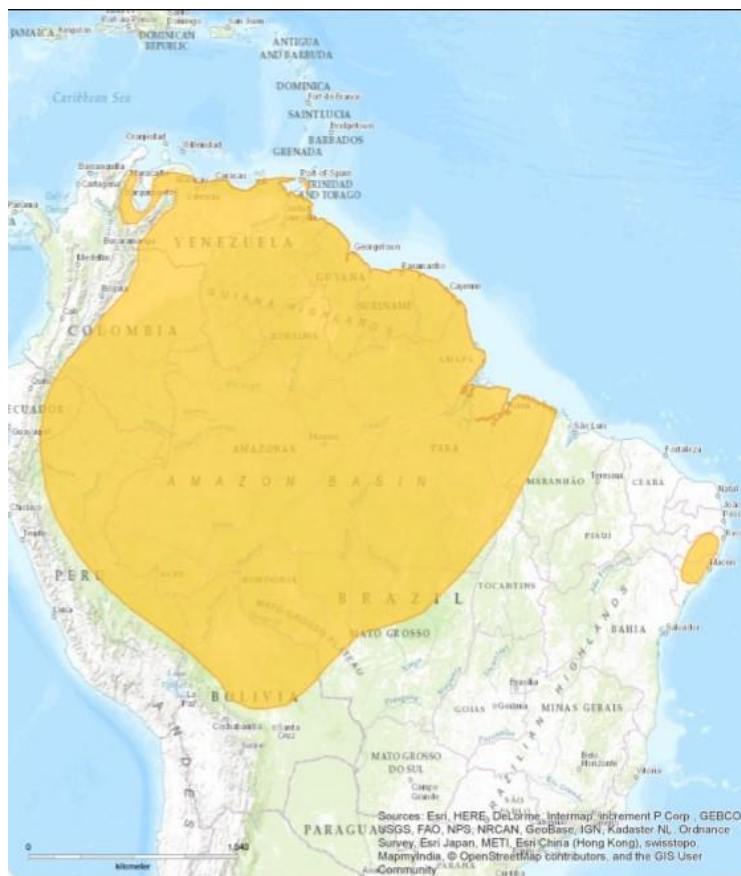
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**Fig. 2.** Individuals of *Lithobates palmipes*: adult female (left) and juvenile (right).

[Fig.2 of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, 2016]



**Fig. 3.** Amazon frog geographic distribution.

[<http://www.iucnredlist.org/pdf/link.11812112>, downloaded 13 October 2016]

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