

Pristimantis charlottevillensis (Tobago Litter Frog)

Family: Craugastoridae (Litter Frogs)

Order: Anura (Frogs and Toads)

Class: Amphibia (Amphibians)



Fig. 1. Tobago litter frog, *Pristimantis charlottevillensis*.

[http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?enlarge=0000+0000+0712+1997 downloaded 27 September 2016]

TRAITS. *Pristimantis charlottevillensis* is a frog coloured different shades of brown, and can also be of a yellow tone or very dark brown, with symmetrical black patterns on its trunk and legs (Fig. 1). Its overall length is approximately 6cm for adult males and 4cm for adult females. The belly of *Pristimantis charlottevillensis* is white and slightly transparent, it has long hind legs approximately 3cm in length and its head is approximately 1.5cm-2cm in adults. The Tobago litter frog has two large eyes at the top of its head and a tympanic membrane (eardrum) behind each eye. The skin is a respiratory organ and functions mainly when it is wet, which accounts for their habitat close to streams and rivers (Hardy, 2004).

DISTRIBUTION. *Pristimantis charlottevillensis* inhabits the northwestern parts of the island of Tobago (Fig. 2) of Trinidad and Tobago, where it is endemic; found in no other countries. It lives to approximately 550m above sea level (Kaiser et al., 1995).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY. The Tobago litter frog is predominantly found near forest streams and seepages and confined to leaf litter and ground plants. Male *Pristimantis charlottevillensis* occupy the same microhabitats, but have also been sighted in grasslands near streams and on thin tree branches further off the ground compared to the females (Hardy, 1982; Kaiser et al., 1995).

BEHAVIOUR. Adult *Pristimantis charlottevillensis* are carnivorous and eat small insects such as flies, ants and beetles. The young which hatch from eggs into a tadpole stage are herbivorous before becoming an adult. These are nocturnal frogs as at night there is dew in the air and on grass and other surfaces (Hardy, 2004).

APPLIED BIOLOGY. This species of frog has a stable population and is listed by the IUCN Red List as under no danger of becoming extinct (IUCN, 2016).

REFERENCES

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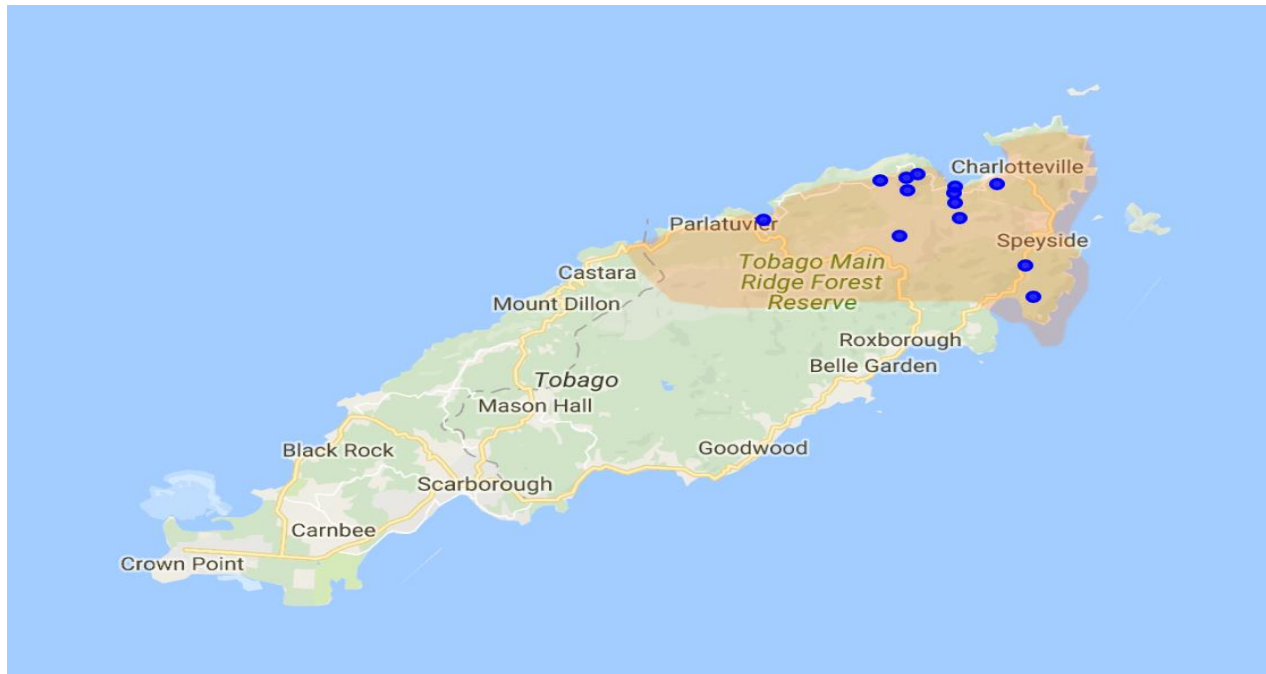


Fig. 2. Tobago litter frog geographical distribution.

[<http://berkeleymapper.berkeley.edu/index>, downloaded 27 September 2016]

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