

White's Tree Frog

(*Litoria caerulea*)

Habitat and Distribution: Tropical and temperate forests of northern and eastern Australia.

Size: Up to 4½ inches

Wild Diet: Insects, spiders and some small vertebrates

Predators: Unknown

Life Span: Up to 21 years (captive life span)

Reproduction: Males are ready to mate at the age of one year, and begin making their mating calls. During the mating season (November to February), males grow a black pad on their thumb to help in gripping the females during breeding. The female may lay between 150-300 eggs in the water where they float until hatching. The eggs will hatch within 24 hours. In prime conditions tadpoles may metamorphose in 2-3 weeks. Young frogs take 4 to 5 months to reach adult size. The female may lay two batches of eggs each season.

Behavior: These frogs are arboreal and primarily nocturnal, although they will often come out in the early evening to call. They can be found resting motionless on leaves or some other vertical surface. Very sticky toe pads make these tree frogs excellent climbers. This species of frog is highly drought tolerant and will cover itself with mucus and burrow to keep moist. They tend to share habitats with humans and are often found in houses, lavatories, water tanks and drain pipes.

Conservation Connection: Secure

Interesting Facts: These frogs have the ability to change color from a dark brown to a blue green. Males are smaller overall, and more slender than females and have a grayish wrinkled vocal sac underneath the throat region. The pupils are horizontal, whereas other hylids have a vertical pupil. They have long limbs and large toe pads.

