

Hour Glass Tree Frog (*Hyla ebraccata*)

Habitat and Distribution: Tropical rainforests of Southern Mexico, Central America and Northern Colombia.

Size: Up to 1½ inches long

Wild Diet: Moths and other small insects

Predators: Cat-eyed snakes, frog-eating spiders and bats

Life Span: Unknown

Reproduction: Breeding takes place during the rainy season when there are many temporary pools in the forest. The males call to attract the females. The females lay a jelly-like mass of 600 eggs on leaves that are overhanging the pools of water. This is thought to protect the eggs from aquatic predators. After 5-7 days, the eggs hatch. The tiny tadpoles, which are gold with black stripes, drop from the leaves into the water below. When they have developed into frogs, they return to the trees.

Behavior: Arboreal and nocturnal.

Conservation Connection: Secure, however their rainforest habitat is threatened.

Interesting Facts: Hour glass tree frogs are named for the hourglass-shaped marking on their back. Their markings are extremely variable, however, and not all have this marking.

