

Ornate Horned Frog

Ceratophrys ornata

Class: *Amphibia*

Order: *Anura*

Family: *Ceratophryidae*

Characteristics:

The name horned frog comes from the folds of skin above its eyes that look like horns. This is a large frog, usually measuring about 5.5 inches long. These frogs can weigh up to a pound with females being larger than males. Ornate Horned Frogs are very colorful with many shades of green, red, orange, yellow, black, and brown on their body. Sometimes they are referred to as “mouths with legs” because the mouth takes up most of the front portion of the body. ([National Zoo](#))

Behavior:

These frogs are most active in the day, but are very passive. Juveniles may be active hunters, but adult frogs will burrow into the ground and wait for prey to come close. Ornate Horned frogs are terrestrial frogs that are often solitary. They are known to be fearless, and will defend themselves against any size predator. If threatened, the Ornate Horned Frog will bite predators using their vomerine teeth.

Reproduction:

Ornate Horned Frogs reach sexual maturity around 1.5-2 years of age. The females will deposit up to 2,000 eggs into standing water. The eggs will take a few weeks to hatch, and tadpoles metamorphose within 2 weeks in good conditions. ([Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium](#))

Diet:

Wild: Ornate Horned Frogs are notorious for eating any prey item that they can fit in their mouth including; mice, insects, lizards, and other frogs.
Zoo: Crickets, pinkies

Conservation:

In 2004, the species was listed as near threatened, but it has been noted by [IUCN](#) that the research needs updating. Ornate Horned Frogs are declining in the wild. It is now rare in Brazil and Argentina. The biggest threat to the population is habitat loss due to development and pollution. It is also used in the pet trade and for research.

FYI:

They can also be known as Argentina Horned Frog, Bell's Ceratophrys, or Pac-man frogs.



Range & Habitat:

Found in Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil. These frogs live in grasslands near water, and in ditches or irrigated cropland.



Lifespan: up to 6 years in captivity.

Special Adaptations: They will hibernate for up to 6 months in the dry season to conserve water.

IUCN Conservation Status:
Near Threatened

