

Bleeding Toad: The Toad That Secretes an Antibacterial Goo

Leptophryne cruentata

These unique looking toads can only be found in the mountains of Java, Indonesia near slow moving waters. They have a distinct color pattern with red and yellow marbling all over their body. They range in size as the females tend to be larger at 25 – 40 mm and a male is about 20 – 30 mm. That's around the size of a quarter! Their diet consists of crickets, locusts, caterpillars, and earthworms.

When stressed these interesting toads secrete a chemical from their skin as a defense mechanism. This liquid has antibacterial properties and can form a resistance to fungal infections.

The bleeding toad is a critically endangered species, there are only 250 mature toads. Their population is declining rapidly due to recreational activities, energy production/mining, and volcanic eruptions.

You can help by supporting conservation programs such as the Indonesian Species Conservation Program (ISCP).



I am targeting an audience from the ages of 14 and up, who have a decent amount of reading and writing skills. As well as those who have an interest in science and animal species. However, I believe that it can also target an audience who don't know much about science or animals.

The specific purpose is to inform the audience about the bleeding toad species such as where they are from, what they eat, and what they look like. As well as make them aware that this species is in danger of becoming extinct.

Sources

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