

Let's discover the World of Amphibians

at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden



K F B G
Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden

So what is an amphibian?



Amphibians are animals that live part of their lives in water and part on land. They are vertebrate animals and include frogs, toads, salamanders, newts and caecilians.

Hong Kong is a wonderful place....

There are 24 native species of amphibians recorded across the territory. We can find many different kinds of amphibians because there is a wide range of suitable habitats, from the hillside streams to the low-lying wetlands.



Are there any amphibians at Kadoorie Farm?



The answer is YES. The streams that are closely linked with the adjoining woodlands and agricultural lands provide a good place for many types of amphibians to forage and breed. You can find more than 15 species of amphibians on the hillside!

Now, let me take you on a tour of some of the fascinating amphibians we can find here....



This is the Hong Kong Newt

Paramesotriton hongkongensis

A brown lizard-like amphibian with beautiful orange dots on the underside. It secretes a sticky and smelly mucus to protect itself from enemies.



Likes unpolluted clear water streams.

Total length 15 cm



This is the Asian Common Toad

Duttaphrynus melanostictus

A warty toad with a pair of large sausage-shaped parotoid glands behind the eyes, which can secrete a milky poison. Its spawn forms a black-speckled jelly necklace.



Look at the eggs!

Likes urban areas and countryside, lives in drains and under rocks.

Total length 6 - 10 cm



This is Günther's Frog

Sylvirana guentheri

This large brown frog has large circular cheek spots. It secretes a toxic chemical which can kill smaller frogs in an enclosed area.



Likes farmland, ponds, streams and drains.

Total length 7 - 10 cm



This is the Brown Tree Frog

Polypedates megacephalus

Pale brown to orange in colour. It is the only frog that lives on trees in Hong Kong and lays eggs in a pale yellow frothy mass that may hang from a tree branch.



Look at the eggs!

Likes farmland, ponds, mountain streams, forests, grassland and shrubland.

Total length 5 - 7 cm



This is the Spotted Narrow-mouthed Frog

Kalophrynus interlineatus

It has a pointed snout and secretes a sticky fluid over the body to protect itself against predators.



Likes farmland and grassy hillsides.

Total length 4 - 6 cm



This is the Asiatic Painted Frog

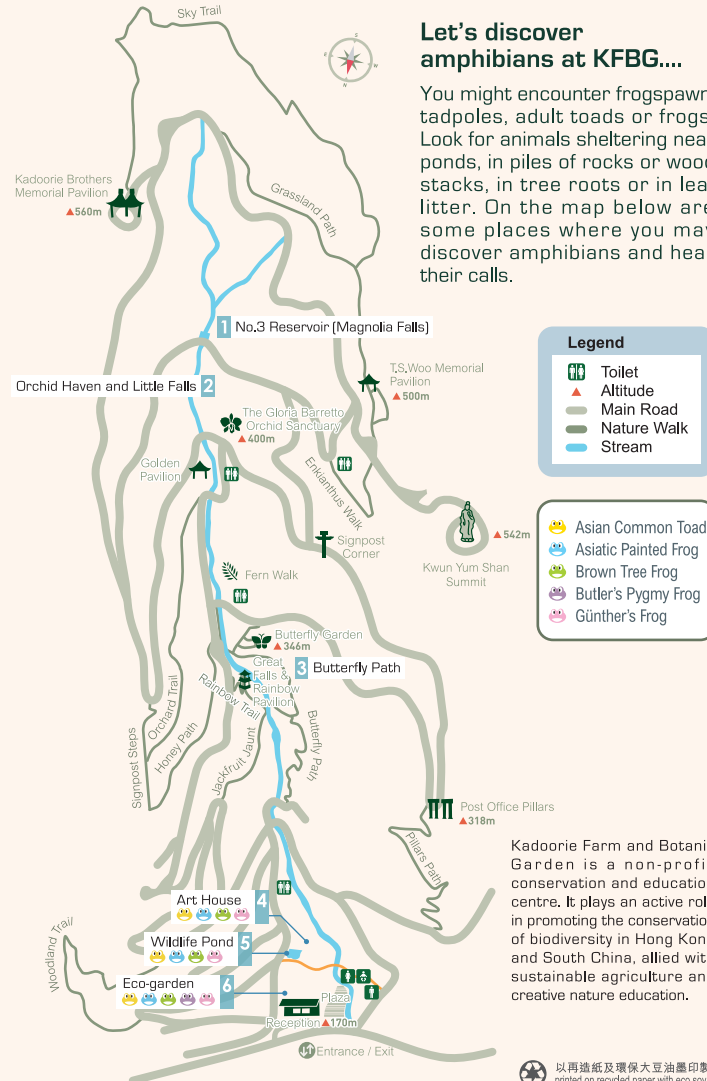
Kaloula pulchra

A chubby looking frog which can inflate itself when feeling threatened. Males make a loud, cow-like bellowing call to attract females during the breeding season.



Likes farmland, woodlands and ponds.

Total length 7.5 cm





This is the Marbled Pygmy Frog

Microhyla pulchra

It has a triangular body shape and chevron-like stripes over its back. The pattern provides excellent camouflage when it hides among leaves.



Likes farmland, grassland and forest edges.

Total length 3 - 5 cm



This is Butler's Pygmy Frog

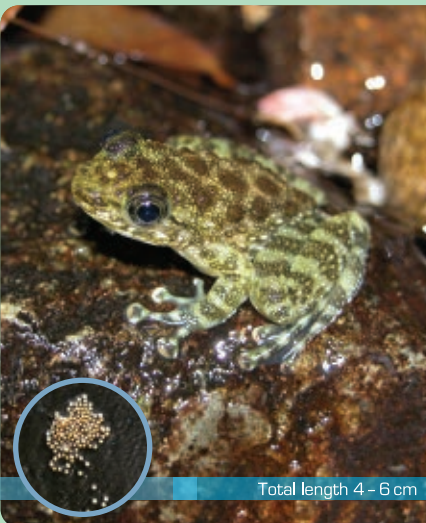
Microhyla butleri

It has a large irregular dark brown spot on the back and its body is covered with numerous round-shaped tubercles.



Likes grassland, farmland and woodland.

Total length 2.5 cm



This is the Hong Kong Cascade Frog

Amolops hongkongensis

It has large and powerful adhesive discs on all digits to grip firmly onto rocks. Its cream-coloured eggs are glued to steep slippery rocks.



Likes hill streams, particularly those with cascades. Has a restricted distribution in South China.

Look at the eggs!

Total length 4 - 6 cm



This is the Lesser Spiny Frog

Quasipaa exilispinosa

A stout bodied frog with tubercles on its skin. It is called the Spiny Frog because breeding males have horny spines on their chests.



Likes hill streams and perching on rocks.

Total length 8 - 10 cm



This is Romer's Tree Frog

Luixalus romeri

The smallest amphibian in Hong Kong. It has an X-like marking on the back. Males produce high-pitched staccato calls, like those of crickets, during the breeding season.



Likes wooded flat areas near small streams. Is endemic to Hong Kong.

Total length 1.5 - 2.5 cm



This is the Green Cascade Frog

Odorrana chloronota

It has a bright green coloured back. Females are at least double the size of the males. It can secrete a toxic fluid which is distasteful to predators.



Likes hill and mountain streams, and often hides in rock crevices.

Total length 5 - 10 cm



This is the Short-legged Toad

Megophrys brachykolos

A small stocky toad with smooth skin and a few scattered warts on its back. It also has triangular horns above the eyes.



Likes clean mountain streams.

Total length 4 cm



This is the Brown Wood Frog

Hylarana latouchii

It has two thick folds on each side of the body. Male frogs like to gather together in small groups and call loudly to attract females.



Likes secondary forest.

Total length 5 cm



Amphibians in Danger!

Did you know....

Amphibians are on the brink of the most significant mass extinction since the dinosaurs. About half of the world's 6,000 species could become extinct within our lifetime. Major causes of frog declines include habitat destruction, chemical pollution, infectious diseases, chytrid fungus, climate change, introduced species, and over-collection for the pet and food trade.



We can all help to save amphibians...

- Protect ponds and streams;
- Buy organic produce and stop using chemical pesticides and fertilizers in your homes and gardens;
- Report any destruction or pollution of streams to the local authorities (AFCD Hotline: 1823);
- Plant native trees.

Stop depriving animals of natural resources – live in a sustainable way. Here are some tips:

- Save electricity. Switch off power in rooms not being used, so that you save energy. This means less production of greenhouse gases which are responsible for global warming.
- Turn off the water when brushing teeth, so that you save water which animals need.
- Begin recycling at home, so that less trees are cut down and more forests remain for animals.