

# Special Seychelles Amphibians

There are 12 species of amphibians in Seychelles, 11 of which are endemic to (only found in) Seychelles.

## Sooglossid Frogs

Seychelles is **the only group** of oceanic islands in the world that have an endemic family of frogs. The family name is Sooglossids and it consists of two genera and four species of frogs (*Sooglossus gardineri*, *Sooglossus pipilodryas*, *Sooglossus sechellensis*, *Nesomantis thomasseti*). The four sooglossid species have only been recorded on Mahé and Silhouette, where they live in the mountain mist forests.



*Sooglossus gardineri* is found on Mahé and Silhouette. It is the most common of the four species



*Nesomantis thomasseti* is found on Mahé and Silhouette. It is classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Animals. The adult measures just 35-45 mm.



*Sooglossus gardineri* is amongst **the smallest frogs in the world**. The adult measures just 11-12 mm long.



*Sooglossus sechellensis* is found on Mahé and Silhouette. It is classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Animals. The adult measures just 15-18 mm.

## Did you know

*Sooglossus sechellensis* deposits its eggs in moist earth. The little tadpoles hatch and climb on their parents' backs. They are carried around and complete their metamorphosis without feeding (they get nutrients from the egg they hatch from). They only leave their parents' backs when they are grown up and ready for a new life.

The smallest frog in the world - Seychelles Gardineri (*Sooglossus gardineri*) - deposits its eggs in moist places like moss or leaf litter, then the females guard the nest until the fully developed juvenile frogs hatch at the size of less than a rice grain



Female



Male

## Endemic Seychelles Tree Frog *Megalixalus sechellensis*

males are smaller than females and have different colours. Males are reddish brown and females are light green and they are nocturnal, spending their days hanging onto leaves or branches with their limbs drawn up tightly against their bodies. They can also change their body colours into a lighter lemon-green during the day and darkening to green (females) or brown (males) at night



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## Seychelles Caecilians

There are seven endemic species of Seychelles Caecilians. They are adapted to burrowing, spending most of their time in moist litter, soil or rotten logs. Caecilians are carnivorous, feeding on soil and litter invertebrates.



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Designed by Dao Nguyen. Photo: Background photo and Male Seychelles Tree Frog by Gideon Climo; Seychelles Sooglossid Frogs by Paul Edgar/HCT; Female Seychelles Tree Frog by Jeff Watson; Seychelles Caecilians by Dave Currie

