**TUSKED FROG**

The tusked frog is an interesting species, which plays an important role in its water habitat.

**Location:**

The Tusk Frog is found from the mid north coast of NSW to Eungella in mid north QLD along the coast and extending inland to the ranges.

**Description**

* A medium-sized species of frog reaching up to 5 cm in body length.
* It has a dark brown or dark grey back, with a butterfly-shaped marking between the eyes.
* The belly is marbled black and white.
* The pupil is horizontal, and the iris is golden brown.
* The thighs and lower legs have bright red patches.
* Fingers are moderately webbed, and toes are slightly webbed, both without discs.
* Males have two large protrusions resembling tusks on their lower jaw, and a very large head.

**Habitat**

* Live in wetlands, swamps and creeks

**Behaviour**

* Sit-and-wait predators, quickly catching insects in their large mouth.
* Sometimes burrow into the soil during dry or hot seasons.
* Males defend their territory, especially breeding sites and nearby areas.
* Mostly nocturnal
* During the day they hide in plants and bushes near the water.
* When threatened they inflate their bodies to look larger.
* May also secrete a toxic substance from their skin as a defence mechanism.

**Food**

* Invertebrates , including insects, spiders, crustaceans

**Breeding and young**

* Breeds during spring and summer.
* Males call to attract females.
* Breed in shallow water especially after heavy rain
* Eggs are laid as a foamy mass on the surface of permanent ponds, stream pools, water-filled crayfish holes, or cattle tracks.
* Tadpoles can reach a total length of 3.5 cm and are dark brown in colour, sometimes with a cream-coloured patch on the snout.
* Tadpoles often remain at the bottom of water bodies and take around two months to develop into frogs.

**Reasons for Being Endangered**

* Loss of habitat
* Destruction of habitat
* Introduction of non-native fish species
* The urbanisation, agriculture and mining of wetlands, swamps, creeks
* Clearing of vegetation
* Road and building construction.
* Some waterways have been diverted.
* Loss of habitats means that they have difficulty between breeding sites.
* Climate change may also be a factor.

References

Australian Museum <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/frogs/tusked-frog/>