



Charles Darwin's Frog

[Source: DTE](#)

Recently scientists have discovered **unique tree hole breeding behaviour** in **Charles Darwin Frog (*Minervarya charlesdarwini*)** species **endemic** to Andaman Islands.

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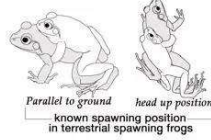


- **Family:** It belongs to the **Dicroglossidae family**, a large group of Asian frogs with over 220 species.
- **IUCN Status:** The frog is currently listed as '**vulnerable**' in the [IUCN Red list](#).
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - They are named in honour of the renowned naturalist **Charles Darwin**.
 - These frogs **lay their terrestrial eggs above water, adopting an upside-down position on tree cavity walls** during mating, likely as an adaptation to **habitat loss**.
 - Due to fragmented forest habitats, they now **use artificial objects like plastic bags as breeding sites**.
 - Male frogs produce **three distinct sounds to attract females**, with aggressive calls to deter rivals. If unsuccessful, they engage in physical confrontations resembling human fighting techniques.

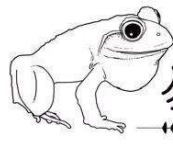


A UNIQUE TREEHOLE BREEDING BEHAVIOR *of* the threatened Charles Darwin's frog from Andaman Islands

1 First report of **upside-down** terrestrial spawning in frogs



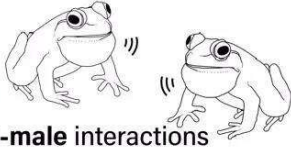
upside-down position



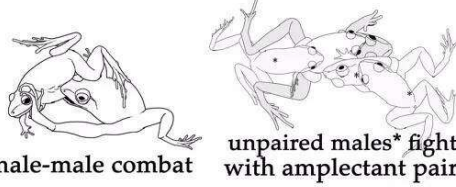
2 Three types of complex male calls



3 male-male interactions



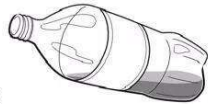
4 Agonistic interactions



male-male combat

unpaired males* fight with amplexant pair

5 Breeding inside **water-filled trash**



Plastic bottles



Nursery bags



Automobile waste



Metal containers

Concept & design: S.D. Biju
Illustrations: S.D. Biju & Natalya Zahn



Biju et al. 2024. Tree holes to Trash: unique upside-down terrestrial spawning, agonistic interactions, complex mating calls, and unnatural breeding alterations in *Minervarya charlesdarwini* (Anura, Dicroglossidae). **Breviora**

Read More: [Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz](#).

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/charles-darwin-s-frog>

