

METADATA: Digital Distribution Maps of the Amphibians of the Western Hemisphere

Version 1.1

Identification Information

1 Abstract: This data set contains distribution information for all amphibians occurring in the Western Hemisphere. The maps were developed as part of the Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA) coordinated by the IUCN, Conservation International, and NatureServe. The GAA is the first-ever comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of the world's 5,743 known species of frogs, toads, salamanders, and caecilians. One goal of the assessment is to make distributional information freely available to the public to inform conservation and other land-use decisions. For more information about the GAA, consult the project website (www.globalamphibians.org).

The ArcView shape files contain the known range of each species. Ranges are depicted as polygons. The files are arranged in folders by family. Files are named by the scientific name (genus_species) of each species.

DBF files accompanying each polygon contain taxonomic information, and may contain information on distribution status, sources and other details about the maps (see Data Attributes section below).

2 Use Constraints: These data may not be used for commercial purposes.

3 Dataset Credit: Users MUST credit the principal partners of the GAA in any product produced in any media that uses information contained in this database. Such credit should read:

“Data developed as part of the Global Amphibian Assessment and provided by the IUCN-World Conservation Union, Conservation International, and NatureServe”

Point Of Contact

4 Contact Person: Bruce E. Young

5 Contact Organization: NatureServe

6 Position: International Zoologist

7 Address: (NatureServe Headquarters) 1101 Wilson Blvd, 15th Floor, Arlington, VA, 22209, USA. (Young's office) Apartado 75-5655, Monteverde, Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

8 Contact Voice Telephone: (in Costa Rica) 506-645-6231

9 Contact Fax Number: (in Costa Rica) 506-645-6231

10 Contact Email Address: bruce_young@natureserve.org

11 Contact website: www.natureserve.org; www.globalamphibians.org

Citation

12 Citation:

IUCN, Conservation International, and NatureServe. 2004. Global Amphibian Assessment. IUCN, Conservation International, and NatureServe, Washington, DC and Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Spatial Reference Information

13 Projection: Unprojected (ESRI Geographic)

14 Projection Parameters: Units: decimal degrees

15 Datum: North American 1983

16 Base Map: Maps are based on the Digital Chart of the World as a basemap (1:1,000,000 scale), developed by the Defense Mapping Agency of the United States of America.

Data Attributes

17 Number of Items in Attribute Table: 11

18 Names of Attributes:

- * English Name
- * Scientific Name [genus + species (+subspecies)]
- * Authority [name + year; in parentheses if genus has changed]
- * Family
- * Presence - Is/was it there (Codes are listed below); If this field is not present, the species is presumed to be "extant".
- * Origin - How/why is it there (Codes are listed below); If this field is not present, the species is presumed to be "native".
- * Compiler [Name + date]
- * Taxonomic comments
- * Distribution comments
- * References [authors name and publication date]
- * Reviewers [names + dates]

19 Codes (note: not all of these codes are used for amphibian maps):

Presence

- 1 - Extant
- 2 - Possibly present
- 3 - Probably extinct/Historically present but no recent records
- 4 - Extinct
- 5 - Extirpated purposely - (applies to introduced species only)
- 6 - Occurs on indicated island chain, but not necessarily on every island in the chain
- 7 - Subfossil/fossil

Origin

- 1 - Native (year round)
- 2 - Native (breeding seasons only)
- 3 - Native (nonbreeding seasons only)
- 4 - Native (as a passage migrant or wanderer)
- 5 - Native (seasonal permanence uncertain)
- 6 - Introduced (Alien) - [anthropogenically since 1600]
- 7 - Either introduced or native
- 8 - Reintroduced
- 9 - Either reintroduced or introduced
- 11 - Unknown

Metadata Reference Information

20 Metadata Date: 13 April 2005

21 Creation Date: 13 April 2005

22 Most recent Update: 18 June 2005

23 Update Notes: First complete compilation of maps for all amphibian species of the Western Hemisphere. Updated in June 2005 to add several recently-described species and improve the accuracy of the distributions of endangered species from the US.