



SNR FACT SHEET

FROGS IN STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE

Frog populations throughout the world have declined dramatically in the last 30 years – mainly as a result of wetland draining, pollution and deforestation. What is killing frogs now could, if allowed to proceed, eventually destroy more resilient forms of life such as human beings.



However, in Steenbok Nature Reserve the Clinking Stream Frog (*Strongylopus grayii*) is flourishing. The adult frogs (size 50mm), vary in colour making identification difficult – the diversity is there to confuse the searching instincts of predators. Their call is very distinctive (a short hollow tapping sound, monotonously regular), and can be heard particularly after rain in the small wetland area south of the northern seawall path. One of their predators, the Black-headed heron, can often be seen in the same vicinity.

It is possible that the Arum Lily Frog (*Hyperolius horstockii*) is also alive and well in the Reserve, as it too lives in coastal wetlands. It is not dependent only on Arum lilies for shelter, but is sometimes found in the lily flower during the day, where its pale body colouring makes it virtually invisible to its insect prey. This frog has bright orange to red feet and toes. Please let us know if you see or hear this little frog (size 43mm) in the Reserve. Its call sounds like a harsh 'quee quee' bleat.



Acknowledgements to L. du Preez & V. Carruthers, *A Complete Guide to the Frogs of Southern Africa*, Cape Town: Random House Struik, 2009.

Photographs by Louis du Preez

<http://www.steenboknaturereserve.org.za/>.