U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

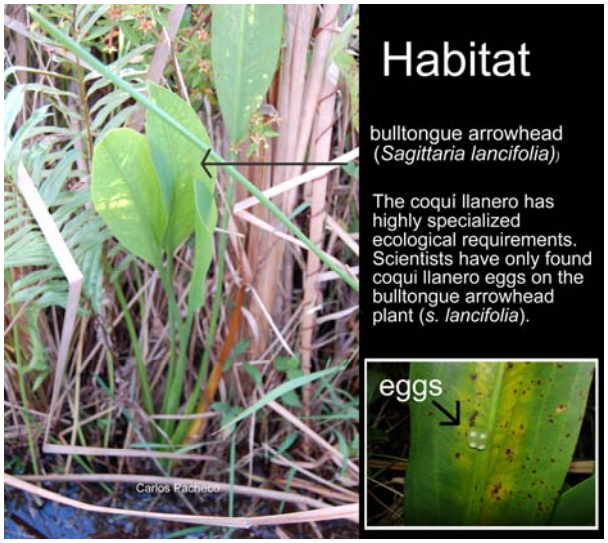
June 2012

Coquí Llanero Fact Sheet

Kingdom: **Animal**
Phylum: **Chordata**
Class: **Amphibian**
Order: **Anura**
Family: **Leptodactylidae**
Genus: **Eleutherodactylus**
Species: ***Eleutherodactylus juanariveroi***

- The size of a dime, the coquí llanero is the smallest Puerto Rican *tree frog*. The species has a yellow to yellowish brown body.
- The species was discovered in 2005 by ecologist and Professor Neftalí Ríos.
- In 2007, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources designated the species as critically endangered.
- The scientific name (*Eleutherodactylus juanariveroi*) was chosen to honor Dr. Juan A. Rivero, a pioneer in the study of amphibians and reptiles of Puerto Rico.
- There is no population estimate. Neftalí Ríos reports an estimated abundance of 192 individuals per acre.
- The coquí llanero has the highest frequency call amongst all 17 species of *Eleutherodactylus*, between 7.38 and 8.28 kHz. The sound is so high it is easily overpowered by other noises, and very hard to detect. The call consists of a series of short high-pitched notes with call duration varying from 4-21 seconds.
- Seventeen different coquí species live in Puerto Rico. Other species of this genus can be found around the world, in Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

  Habitat: About 615 acres within an herbaceous wetland located in the former Sabana Seca Navy Base in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. 90% of this land is managed by the Department of Defense and identified for residential development. 10% of the wetland is managed by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- Coqui llanero only deposits its eggs on the plant *Sagittaria lancifolia.*
-



Conservation needs

The following activities need to be carefully managed in the area occupied by the coquí llanero to avoid altering the composition and abundance of essential vegetation inside the wetland:

1. Fill of wetlands for development projects.
2. Degradation of water quality from underground contaminants like drainage from the nearby landfill and other facilities.
3. Use of insecticides, fertilizers and herbicides in agriculture and road maintenance.