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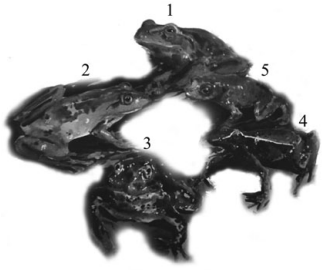
*The watercolour painting by artist Amanda Hyatt depicts five frogs, Litoria infrafrenata (white-lipped tree frog—1), Litoria dahlii (northern waterfrog; Dahl's frog—2), Rana muscosa (mountain yellow-legged frog—3), Taudactylus acutirostris (sharp-snouted torrent frog—4), and Bufo periglenes (golden toad—5), all of which have been reported to be infected with the chytrid Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd). Of these, Bd has been associated with the extinction of Taudactylus acutirostris; the demise of Bufo periglenes is still being debated.*




# Chytridiomycosis: an emerging disease

Editors: Alex Hyatt, Cynthia Carey, Andrew Cunningham, Rick Speare (Guest Editor)

*Chytridiomycosis is the most formidable infectious disease known to infect amphibians. It has the potential of causing sporadic deaths in some populations, and 100% mortality in others. Since the mid 1990s the causative agent Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis has been identified, sampling protocols and diagnostic assays developed, surveys conducted, investigations into treatment and management and control undertaken.*

*In this DAO Special, articles address updates on the origin and spread of Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, pathology of the disease, host defenses and mitigation of the impact of spread and disease via therapeutics, management and control. Much more research needs to be done and we hope this DAO Special helps to provide additional evidence to allow us to rise to the challenge.*

*The articles published here are representative of the large on-going area of research focusing on identifying the global distribution of Bd, modification of diagnostic assays, increasing our understanding of the biology and genetics of the pathogen and, ultimately, in improving our abilities to control the disease.*

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