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Another Species Dead and Gone in Costa Rica

by LADB Staff

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Holdridge's Toad is dead. Voiceless and deaf though it was, the little black and orange amphibian was once abundant on its home turf of Cerro Chompipe in Costa Rica. But, as of October 2008, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has declared the species extinct. *Bufo* Holdridgei, or *Incillius* Holdridgei, had been unique to Costa Rica, existing nowhere else on the planet. Herpetologist Alan Pounds explained, "Holdridge's Toad was a species endemic to the central mountain range at an average altitude of 2,270 meters above sea level." Pounds works at the Centro Científico Tropical (CCT) in Puntarenas and has been cast as Doctor Doom for these creatures.

In 2005, he demonstrated the extinction of the Golden Toad and the Harlequin frog of Monteverde (see NotiCen, 2006-01-19). Holdridge's Toad had been a notable figure around its home turf. A long time observer, Gerardo Chavez, recalled, "This species had a very interesting behavior. In the mating season

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