* **Amphibians** are [ectothermic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ectotherm), [tetrapod](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetrapod) [vertebrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vertebrate) of the [class](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class_(biology)) **Amphibia**. All living amphibians belong to the group [Lissamphibia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lissamphibia). The three modern orders of amphibians are [Anura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anura_(frog)) (the frogs and toads), [Urodela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urodela) (the salamanders), and [Apoda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caecilian) (the caecilians). The number of known amphibian species is approximately 8,000, of which nearly 90% are frogs. The smallest amphibian (and vertebrate) in the world is a frog from [New Guinea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Guinea) with a length of just 7.7 mm (0.30 in). The largest living amphibian is the 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) [South China giant salamander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_China_giant_salamander) but this is dwarfed by the extinct 9 m (30 ft) [*Prionosuchus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prionosuchus) from the [middle Permian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guadalupian) of Brazil. The study of amphibians is called [batrachology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batrachology), while the study of both reptiles and amphibians is called [herpetology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herpetology).