

## 'Pinocchio' frog discovered in Indonesia

By correspondent Liam Fox and wires

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**Scientists say the discovery of new animals in Indonesia bolsters the argument for the conservation of the world's rainforests.**

A team from Conservation International found at least 12 new animals during a survey of the Foja Mountains in the province of Papua in 2008.

The finds include several new mammals, a reptile, an amphibian, and a dozen insects.

The most unusual discovery was a frog with a Pinocchio-like protuberance on its nose that points up when the male is calling and deflates when quiet.

The team documented a tiny forest wallaby believed to be the smallest member of the kangaroo family.

The team also found a tame, woolly rat and a bent-toed gecko with yellow eyes.

Other discoveries recorded during the survey included a new blossom bat, which feeds on rainforest nectar, and a small tree-mouse.

Scientist Neville Kemp also photographed a new species of imperial pigeon.

"These kinds of discoveries are getting rarer and rarer as we lose more and more habitat," he said.

"There is new stuff out there and we need to know about it before it's lost."

Conservation International's Bruce Beehler, a participant on the expedition, says discoveries of a similar nature will prove more difficult if rainforests are not protected.

"While animals and plants are being wiped out across the globe at a pace never seen in millions of years, the discovery of these absolutely incredible forms of life is much-needed positive news," he said.

"Places like these represent a healthy future for all of us and show that it is not too late to stop the current species extinction crisis."

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Scientists discovered a frog with a Pinocchio-like protuberance on its nose. (National Geographic: Tim Laman)



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