

Barking Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes fletcheri*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing, fringes present.



Eggs: Floating, foamy mass.



■ Range

□ North Central Region



Photo David Kleinert

Other common names: Barking Frog, Fletcher's Frog, Long-thumbed Frog.

Adult description: The adult Barking Marsh Frog has irregular edged brownish-olive green blotches on its back and a reddish-orange patch on the upper eyelid. The skin is smooth, or with low, rounded warts. The belly is white and smooth. The base of the toe is webbed. Adults range in length between 33 and 55 mm.

Calling: Males call from amongst concealed floating vegetation. The call is a short modulated note, sounding similar to a distant barking dog, hence the name. This 'whrup' or 'rok' sound is repeated every few seconds.

Breeding: Breeding usually occurs between spring and autumn after heavy rains. It takes a female two years to become reproductively mature.

Eggs & tadpoles: Approximately 300 pigmented eggs are laid in a floating foamy mass, often partly anchored to grasses. Found in slow moving or still water. Eggs hatch within three days after being laid. Tadpoles are moderately large and can range in colour from translucent white-gold with a tint of olive to opaque grey-brown or olive-brown. Found in slow moving or still water. When disturbed, tadpoles can move very swiftly.

Habitat: Adults most often associate with water within woodlands and along the floodplains of lakes and rivers. Usually found beneath rocks, logs and in yabby burrows.

Conservation status & threats: Non-threatened. Potential threats include a decline in water quality, habitat disturbance, cats, foxes, herbicides and pesticides, and the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium*).

Interesting facts and features: Most often confused with *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* - the call is the most reliable method of distinction between the two species.

