



Eastern (Common) Froglet *Crinia signifera*

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Adults

Crinia signifera is a small ground dwelling frog between 18-28mm long. The Eastern Froglet is one most common and widely distributed frogs of Eastern Australia. One distinguishing feature of the Eastern Froglet is the granular blotched black and white belly.

The throat and chest of the males is either white, grey (muddy white) or brown. The texture on their back is variable, it can either be smooth with a few warts, have longitudinal ridges, or have boomerang shaped ridges over the shoulder and back. The fingers and toes of the Common Froglet are not webbed.



Ventral view - note marbling (Source: Leigh Mitchell)

Tadpoles

The body is quite plump and small with an abdomen that is usually wider than deeper. They are light grey or brown in body colour

with scattered flecks of black or gold. The tail has a rounded tip, with gold flecks on lighter coloured tadpoles, but no flecks are seen on the darker variety. These tadpoles are bottom dwellers feeding on microscopic particles of the substrate. They hide under the leaf litter and among rocks where they are well camouflaged.



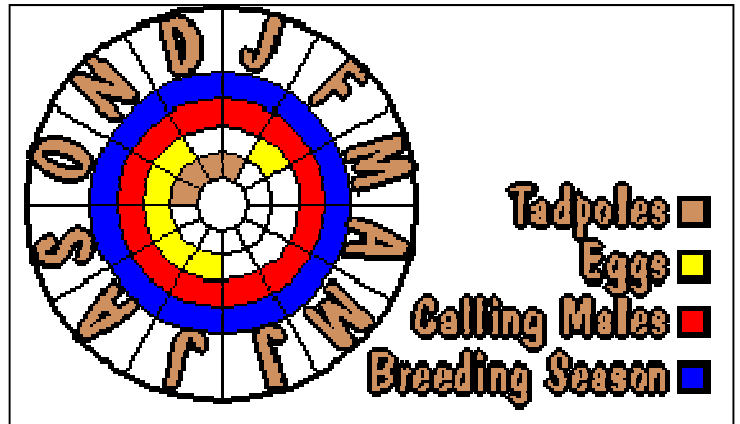
Dorsal View (Source: Leigh Mitchell)

Eggs

Eggs are very small and laid singly. Sometimes the female lays several at a time forming a loose cluster around a submerged stem or twig. More commonly, the eggs are attached singly to the vegetation or roll freely.

LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

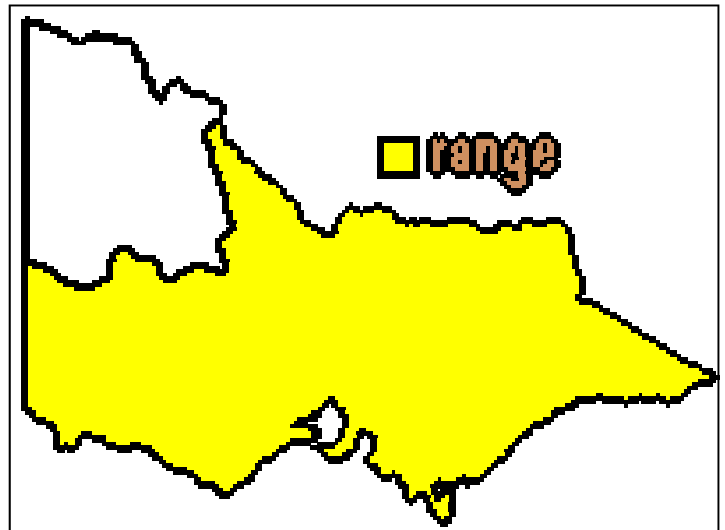
Male Eastern Froglets call from amongst debris and vegetation near the waters edge or while floating amongst submerged vegetation. Their call can be heard all year round as well as all day long. The call is a like a cricket chirping, with three to five repeats “crick....crick....crick”. This mating call is more dominant after rain, especially in the cooler seasons. Hatchlings occur 7-10 days after laying. Females can first reproduce at <2yrs.



Life History Cycle (Source: www.frogs.org.au)

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

The Eastern Froglet is well distributed throughout eastern Australia. It is found in almost all habitats from mountains to the coast, covering floodplains, forest, grasslands, open and disturbed areas. Possible sites include temporary flooded ditches, streams, ponds and dams which allow breeding to occur all year round. The Eastern Froglet shelters under logs and leaf litter (where it is well camouflaged), and is found in debris near the edges of swamps and ponds.



Victorian Distribution (Source: www.frogs.org.au)

IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

The Eastern Froglet is common and very stable throughout Victoria with the possibility of population sizes increasing. Possible threats to the Eastern Froglet include: urbanisation and tourism, loss of temporary pools, and habitat fragmentation. These frogs have a high fecundity rate, laying up to 51-200 eggs/female/year. Throughout Australia, the Common Froglet covers a range of 80,001-1,000,000 km² with an estimated total population of >50000 adults.



Crinia signifera (Source: Leigh Mitchell)

