



# Giant Banjo Frog

## *Limnodynastes interioris*

### DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

#### Adults

This species is the largest frog in Victoria. Its robust build allows it to be a very powerful burrower and jumper. The colouration of its back varies from pale yellow, fawn, to red-brown with dark flecks and spots. Broad coppery-orange bands of colour are often noticeable down the sides. Below these bands they have uneven bands which are black and scattered with blue-white spots. A cream, yellow or orange raised stripe extends from below the

eye to the arm. Their belly is yellow with black flecks, while the groin is marbled yellow and black. The skin is smooth on the belly and smooth to finely granular on the back. They have webbed toes and can attain a length of up to 90mm.



**Giant Banjo Frog (dorsal view)**

Source: Julian Bentley/  
[www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au)

#### Tadpoles

The tadpoles are large, ovoid and brown-black with dark grey fins. Often the fins and body are covered with dark flecks.

#### Eggs

The Giant Banjo Frog's eggs are pigmented and contained within a large foam mass which is concealed among aquatic vegetation or flooded burrows.

## LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

Males call from either floating vegetation or in burrows along the side of streams, dams or pools. Their call is a short deep hollow note similar to that of *Limnodynastes dumerili*, but of a much lower pitch- “gunk”, “donk” or a reverberating “bonk”. Males call almost year round, except for summer which is likely to be due to lack of rain.

Breeding occurs in spring, summer and autumn after heavy downpours of rain. Eggs are laid in frothy foam nests in burrows or on the edges of dams or pools. Females are thought to first reproduce at 2-3 years of age.

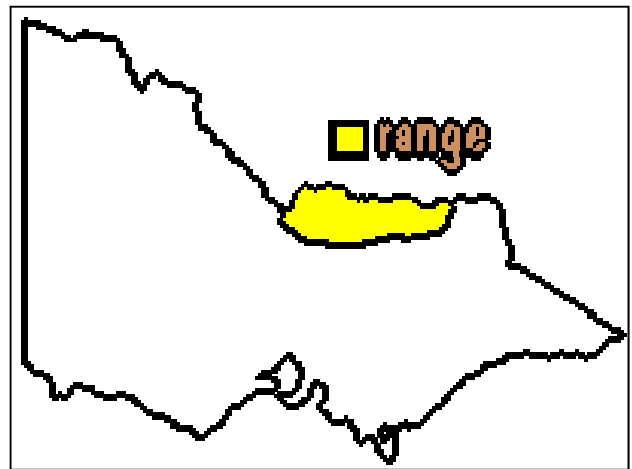


Life History Cycle (Source: [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au))

## HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

The Giant Banjo Frog is fairly uncommon in Victoria, largely restricted to the Murray River floodplains. Adults often live in disturbed areas or woodlands, usually in quite dry forest associated with floodplains.

It spends the majority of its life underground and emerges only after rain when it is time to feed and spawn. Eggs are spawned in swamps, ponds, dams and flooded burrows along stream banks. Tadpoles are commonly associated with slow moving or still waters.



Victorian Distribution (Source: [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au))

## IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

The Giant Banjo Frog is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* as a threatened species; however, its range and population size do not appear to have gone through any substantial changes.

Potential threats to the survival of this species include: inappropriate catchment management which results in poor water quality and habitat modification such as the clearing of vegetation or invasion of exotic weeds.