



Pobblebonk

Limnodynastes dumerili

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Adults

Limnodynastes dumerili commonly known as the Eastern Banjo Frog or Pobblebonk, is a dark coloured frog ranging from colours of grey, dark green, dark brown to black. The skin is rough and warty on the back and smooth white or mottled underneath on the belly. On the face of the frog there is a pale stripe which runs from underneath the eye to the arm. Above this stripe is a black band which reaches from the eye to the tympanum



Dorsal view (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)

(eardrum). The Pobblebonk is a burrowing frog which uses its arms and legs to dig its self backwards into soft mud. Their total body length averages between 50 to 85 mm. The toes have slight to no webbing and has an ob-

vious shovel shaped rear toe. Sometimes this frog may have a slight pale line down the back of the frogs spine.

Tadpoles

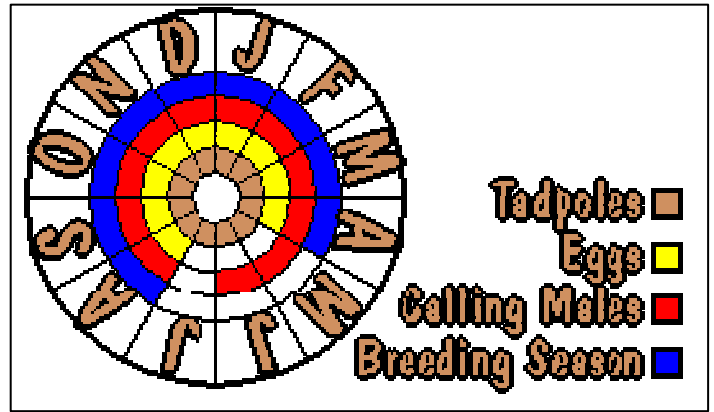
Pobblebonk tadpoles are quite large. Their body and tail is dark in colour with gold flecks covering the tail, except for underneath. Their snout is rounded and has a golden iris with a thin dark ring around it. The tadpoles are found on the bottom of the water body, feeding on tiny particles in the sediment and vegetation. These tadpoles usually sit on the bottom with little exercise, but if disturbed they can swim quite fast.

Eggs

The Pobblebonk Frog has quite a unique egg mass, which is easily distinguished by a white foamy appearance. The female uses her fore arms like egg beaters to whip up a mixture of air bubbles and clear jelly creating the foam. The eggs are dark and tiny. The female can lay up to 4000 eggs which are embedded in to the dome of foam which floats on the freely on the surface or in vegetation.

LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

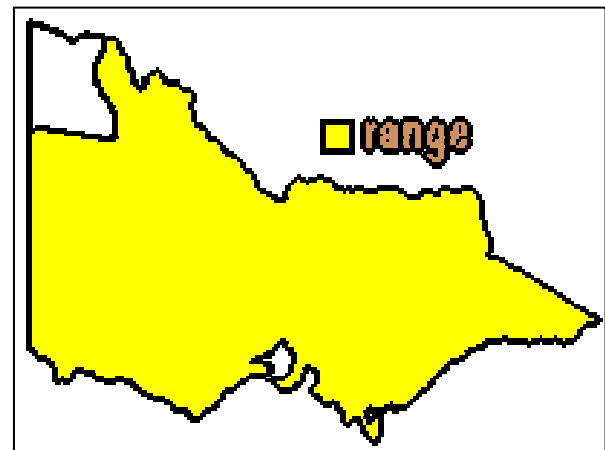
The Pobblebonk Frog gets its other common name the Eastern Banjo frog from its call sounding like a banjo being strung-“bonk”. The males call floating among vegetation or along the bank. The call is heard almost throughout the year however more uncommon in the colder months. The call is most intense after heavy rains. Breeding occurs in streams, ponds and dams throughout August right through to April.



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

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

The Pobblebonk is a well distributed frog around Victoria found in a range of environments such as woodlands, forests, farmlands to coastal sites, they are often associated with slopes and ranges. They are always found near or in permanent water bodies that are still or slow moving.



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

IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

The Pobblebonk Frog is estimated to cover an area of 80,001-1,000,000 km² throughout Australia this area has been estimated to have decreased by 25% due to land change. Possible threats for the Pobblebonk Frog include salinisation, habitat degradation and degraded water quality. Loss of temporary pools and soaks used for mating and laying of eggs due to drought is another possible threat to this species. Little is known about its population trend.



Dorsal view (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)