

Bibron's Toadlet *(Pseudophryne bibronii)*



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing.



Eggs: Terrestrial, loose clumps.



■ Range
□ North Central Region



Photos © Lydia Fucsko 2011

Other common names: Brown Toadlet, Brown Brood Frog.

Adult description: The adult Bibron's Toadlet is brown to black on its back, with a scattering of darker flecks and red spots. Its skin is mostly smooth, with small warts. Its underbelly is marbled in black and white or black, grey and white. Often has a bright yellow spot on the vent and sometimes a faded yellowish stripe down the middle of its lower back. On the base of each arm there is always an orange or yellow patch. As with all members of this genus, it tends to walk rather than hop. Adult females are slightly larger than males, measuring between 25-32 mm, and the male being around 22-30 mm.

Calling: Males call from within the nest or burrow, especially after heavy rain. The call is a short, harsh, grating "cre-ek" or "ark" sound, repeated every few seconds.

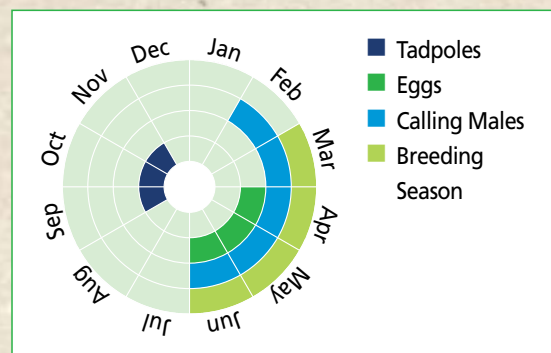
Breeding: Breeding season is during autumn; the female will only produce one batch of eggs each year. Eggs are laid terrestrially amongst moist leaf litter or under rocks, logs or stones. After rain when the area becomes inundated, the eggs will hatch. If it does not rain soon after being laid, tadpoles will continue to develop inside the unhatched eggs which can take between three to seven months.

Eggs & tadpoles: Eggs are large, pigmented and often coated in soil or mud. They are laid on moist soil in loose clumps of between 70-200 eggs. Tadpoles vary in colour, from dark brown to light grey. The tail fin is clear and mottled with black or brown flecks. They grow to approximately 30 mm in length. Found in ponds, puddles, flooded grasslands and roadside ditches.

Habitat: Adults utilise a wide variety of habitats including dry forests, woodland, shrubland and grasslands, preferring areas that are prone to inundation after rain. They shelter in damp areas under leaf litter, logs, or other forms of cover.

Conservation status & threats: Endangered in Victoria and listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. Threats include decline in water quality, habitat disturbance, cats, foxes, herbicides and pesticides, agricultural activities relying on high fertiliser inputs, small population sizes, which makes populations more susceptible to localised extinctions and the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium*).

Interesting facts and features: They are thought to feed mainly on ants while foraging at night, but also beetles and mites.



The North Central Catchment Management Authority acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The information on this Fact Sheet is extracted from the North Central Waterwatch Frogs Field Guide. Please visit the North Central Catchment Management Authority website, www.nccma.vic.gov.au for more information.

