



Southern Brown Tree Frog *Litoria ewingi*

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Adults

This frog is an agile climber and jumper which is capable of leaping to catch a fly in mid-flight! Colouring ranges from pale fawn, cream, orange to light brown along their sides and white on their belly. The back of their thighs are yellow to deep red. A pale stripe can be seen between the eye and upper jaw. Breeding males have a light brown vocal sac. They grow to a length of between 25 and 45 mm



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

Tadpoles

Tadpoles are medium sized, cylindrical and range in colour from pale golden yellow to dark grey with clear fins. They are fast swimmers and dart away when disturbed.



Tadpole (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)

Eggs

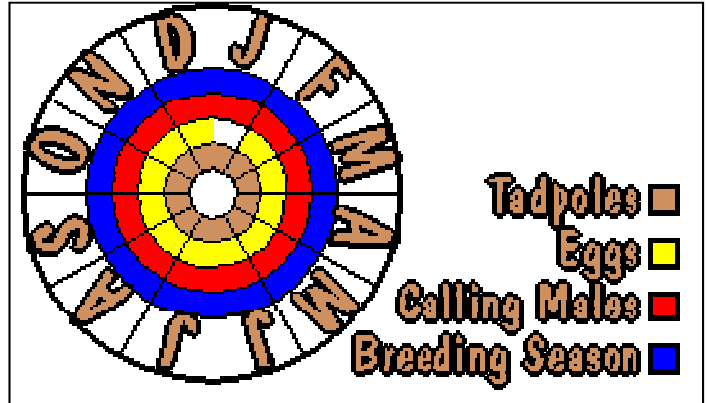
Between 500 and 700 pigmented eggs are laid in jelly clumps which are more often than not attached to submerged vegetation. Eggs hatch between four and six days after laying.

LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

Males can be found calling from a variety of places including: the ground near the edge of water, in low vegetation at or near the water's edge, or in the water among vegetation. Their call is a series of rapid harsh, whirring pulsing notes that are repeated between 5 and 15 times- "creeeeeeeee creee creee cree cree cree". The first note is usually held the longest. Calling can be heard throughout the entire year, although most frequently after rain.

This species breeds all year round, peaking in late winter and early spring. Hatching occurs within a few weeks of spawning. Tadpoles take between 12

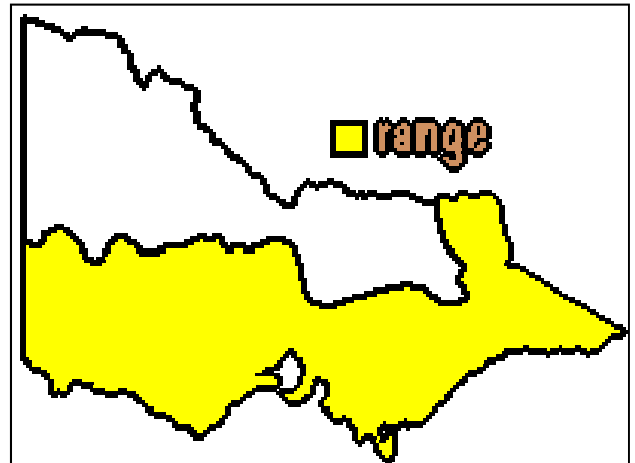
and 26 weeks to reach metamorphosis.



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

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

The Southern Brown Tree Frog is a common and widespread species usually found in flooded grasslands or marshes; however, they can be found in most habitat types including your backyard. They occur in wet and flooded areas for breeding but can also be heard calling far away from water. Both eggs and tadpoles of this species can be found in ponds, dams, lakes, streamside ponds and flooded roadside ditches.



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

IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

The Southern Brown Tree Frog is not listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* as a threatened species, and populations do not seem to be in decline.

Habitat modification such as the removal of vegetation and the introduction of invasive weeds may have a detrimental affect on the survival and distribution of this species.