



Peron's Tree Frog *Litoria peronii*

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Adults

Litoria peronii is a large frog reaching up to 75mm in total length. The most fascinating feature about this frog is their ability to change colour depending on the temperature of the individual, whether it is day or night, and their mood. The colour on their back varies from grey, brown, dark brown or cream, with flecks of emerald green; the texture is rough with lightly protruding warts. The belly is white/cream and granular. They have a unique mottling pattern of yellow and black covering the armpits, groin and back of the thighs (this pattern has not fully developed on the immature Peron's Tree Frog). Sometimes this pattern will be found on their webbing and toes. Fingers are half webbed and the toes are almost completely webbed. They have large toe disc's and their iris is silver with a cross shaped pupil.



Perons Tree Frog (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)

Tadpoles

The body is cylindrical and large. It has three dark longitudinal stripes, one down the spine and one on each side. They have a shiny



Perons Tree Frog (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)

green spot on the tip of their snout and a silver iris. They are quite agile swimmers and can change direction rapidly. They have large jaws allowing them to eat floating insects. They are commonly found swimming on the surface at a 45° angle.

Eggs

Eggs are found during October and December, singly or in small clusters near the water's edge among leaf litter and vegetation.

LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

Their mating call resembles a slow cackle, drawn out and descending in speed, but increasing in volume as the call develops—“cra-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ahhk”. Males call from September through to January from near the water’s edge, among emergent vegetation, or nearby trees and plants. Breeding activity is more common after rain and usually occurs in temporary pools, dams and sometimes suburban ponds. Hatchlings occur 4 to 6 days after laying.



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

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Peron’s Tree Frogs are found in south-eastern Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. They are quite wide-spread from coastal to inland areas and can be found living in trees long distances from water. Possible habitats include forest woodlands, open land and suburban landscapes. In Victoria the Peron’s Tree Frog is distributed throughout the Murray-Darling Basin and also East Gippsland and Central Victoria.



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

IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

Little is known about the distribution of the Peron’s Tree Frog around Victoria, however, it is suggested that populations are scattered. Population size of this species are said to be steady and productive and possibly increasing. Possible threats for the Peron’s Tree Frog include: degraded water quality, habitat loss through urbanization and clearing, and fragmentation of breeding populations. Loss of temporary pools and soaks used for mating and laying of eggs through due to drought is another possible threat to this species. At present there seems to be no major threat affecting their population size.