

Plains Froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*)



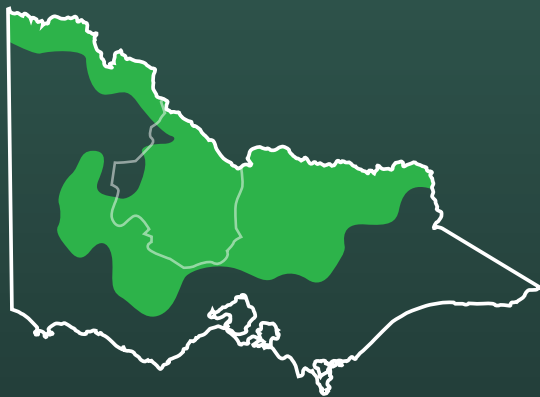
Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing.



Eggs: Aquatic single eggs or loose groups in jelly, on substrate.



■ Range
□ North Central Region



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Other common names: Eastern Sign-bearing Froglet, Beeping Froglet.

Adult description: The adult Plains Froglet has variable patterning on the back, but three patterns (morphs) are recognised: the first is ridged with longitudinal lines along the back; the second is boomerang shaped ridges over the shoulder and on the back; and the third is a smooth unpatterned back; sometimes with small warts. It has a light coloured belly, either plain or peppered with black, grey, and white flecks. This species will grow to between 18-24 mm.

Calling: Males call from the safety of vegetation at the waters edge or from emergent vegetation. The call is a harsh squelching note - 'eeeeeeek' repeated every few seconds.

Breeding: Most breeding occurs in mid-winter, however may occur throughout the year. On average metamorphosis from tadpole to frog is completed in 11-12 weeks.

Eggs & tadpoles: The very small, pigmented eggs are laid individually or in loose clumps, scattered around the bottom of ponds and water bodies; often found attached to aquatic plants. Tadpoles can be found in ponds, dams, swamps, flooded grassland, ditches, hollows and depressions containing water. The tadpoles are light grey to brown all over their body, with scattered dark flecks. The dark pigmentation has patches of gold over the top, which increase in size as the tadpole grows.

Habitat: The Plains Froglet can be found in and around farm dams, woodlands, floodplains, and open or disturbed areas, where they will shelter under logs and ground litter, usually in moist depressions or near water. Numerous individuals may be found beneath one log or rock.

Conservation status & threats: Non-threatened. Potential threats include a decline in water quality, loss, fragmentation and disturbance of suitable habitat, cats, foxes, herbicides and pesticides and the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium*).

Interesting facts and features: A small ground dwelling frog that is quite conspicuous by its habit of calling during the day, throughout the year. It can be distinguished from other frogs of the same genus through its belly colouration and call. Females are larger than males.

