

Southern Toadlet (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing.



Eggs: Terrestrial, loose clumps.



■ Range
□ North Central Region



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Other common names: Orange Throated Toadlet

Adult description: The adult Southern Toadlet is olive to dark brown on its back, with darker flecks. Its underbelly has black and white marbling. The throat, the underside of the legs and lower half of its belly are bright orange, yellow or a flesh colour. The skin can be warty. Females usually have a smooth belly, while the males can be rough. Like all *Pseudophryne* species, it is a ground dweller and has a preference for walking. Adult females are 25-28 mm in length, while males can grow up to 35 mm long.

Calling: Males call from shallow burrows near boggy ground or water, especially after heavy rain. The call is a short, "ark" or "cre-ek" and can be heard in late summer and autumn.

Breeding: Breeding season occurs from March to June. Eggs are laid terrestrially amongst moist leaf litter or under rocks, logs or stones or in shallow burrows. Eggs will hatch after rain when the area becomes inundated.

Eggs & tadpoles: Eggs are large, pigmented and often coated in soil or mud. The eggs are usually laid singly in nests which can contain 8 – 194 eggs. Tadpoles vary in colour, from dark brown to fine gold. The tail fin is clear patchy brown. They grow to approximately 34 mm in length. They are 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: Non-Threatened. Threats include declining water quality, habitat disturbance, cats, foxes, herbicides and pesticides, agricultural activities relying on high fertiliser inputs, small population sizes – the latter which makes populations more susceptible to localised extinctions and the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium*).

Interesting facts and features: The *Pseudophryne* species is unique in its dietary sources eating such things as ants, beetles and millipedes.

