

# Victorian Smooth Froglet (*Geocrinia victoriana*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing.



Eggs: Terrestrial, loose clumps.



■ Range  
□ North Central Region



Photos © Lydia Fucsko 2011

**Other common names:** Eastern Smooth Froglet.

**Adult description:** The adult Victorian Smooth Froglet is a variable species, the back being smooth, rough or warty, plain or marbled in single or multi-colours. The belly is smooth, usually marbled or peppered, also in multi-colours. The armpit or groin usually displays a pink patch in each. They have a dark pigment on the thighs. Adults grow to a length of 20-35 mm.

**Calling:** Males call from the ground in moist leaf litter and among grass tussocks, usually near water in areas which are prone to inundation. The call is a long harsh introductory note followed by a long series of short rapidly repeated notes 'wa-a-a-a-ark pip-pip-pip-pip-pip-pip...'

**Breeding:** Calling can be heard almost year round, but particularly between January and May. Breeding season extends from November to May.

**Eggs & tadpoles:** Up to 160 pigmented terrestrial eggs are spawned, adhering in sticky clumps in moist leaf litter or grass tussocks that will later become inundated with water. Hatching of eggs can be delayed for up to four months in dry periods; tadpoles hatch when the area is flooded. They generally reside along the bottom of still pools and can take up to eight months to reach metamorphosis. They are dark brown in colour with clear fins flecked with brown.

**Habitat:** This species can be found in a wide range of habitats from rainforests, wet and dry forests, woodlands, shrublands and grasslands.

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

**Interesting facts and features:** A common and widespread but secretive species which is most often encountered in late summer and autumn. It is distinguished from most species by the pink colouring in the groin.

