

Frogs from the Mount Lofty Ranges



Eastern Banjo Frog
Limnodystes dumerilii

The **Eastern Banjo Frog** is a common inhabitant of dams, wetlands and rivers. It is a medium to large burrowing frog with a broad, rounded head and short, thick limbs. Large glands are present on the tibia and the edge of the mouth. The body is rough and warty, varying from a pale grey to dark brown or black. The sides are commonly marked with bronze, purple or black. Females have flanges (flaps of skin) on the first two fingers which aid in construction of the foam nest.

Size: Males 52-90 mm; Females 52-83 mm.

Habitat: Burrows in loamy soils and emerges to feed and breed after rains. Commonly seen crossing roads on rainy nights.

Breeding: A large foam nest containing up to 4000 eggs is laid in water, attached to vegetation. Females have flanges on their fingers that are used during mating to carry air bubbles from the surface of the water into the foam nest to oxygenate the eggs.

Mating call: A single musical 'bonk'.



Painted Frog
Neobatrachus pictus

Living in woodland, mallee, open and disturbed areas, the burrowing **Painted Frog** has no obvious site preferences. The species is moderately sized, stockily built with short limbs and is generally deep olive with darker markings on the head and body. The eye is prominent and has a vertical pupil. The tympanum (ear) is not visible. The fingers are cylindrical and lack webbing. The toes are extensively webbed. The Painted Frog's skin is smooth, except during the mating season when the male will develop tiny black thorns. It also has a black horn-like 'shovel' on the foot.

Size: Males 46-58 mm; Females 41-55 mm.

Habitat: Mostly open grassland and woodland.

Breeding: About 1000 yellow eggs are laid in a chain entwined with submerged vegetation.

Mating call: A long, rapidly pulsed, musical trill.



Spotted Marsh Frog
Limnodystes tasmaniensis

The **Spotted Marsh Frog** is the most common frog in Australia. It has olive, green or brown spots on a pale background which may change over the course of the day. The ventral (lower) surface of the body is smooth and white. Breeding males have a dark yellow/green throat. Many specimens have a mid-dorsal stripe that may be white, yellow or cream. Females have flanges (flaps of skin) on the first two fingers which aid in construction of the foam nest.

Size: Males 31-42 mm; Females 32-47 mm.

Habitat: A widespread species, habitat includes marshy country, creek edges and wetlands.

Breeding: Males call from the edge of shallow water, often hidden in vegetation. A foam nest of 90-1300 eggs is laid floating in water attached to vegetation.

Mating call: A rapid, soft 'uk..uk..uk..uk', like a toy machine gun.



Mount Lofty Ranges Tree Frog
Rawlinsonia calliscelis

The **Mount Lofty Ranges Tree Frog** is the only tree frog naturally found in the Mount Lofty Ranges and surrounding areas. It is often seen clinging to windows and is a common visitor to garden ponds. It is slender and medium sized with a broad head and rounded snout. A wide and undivided band runs along its back. It is generally pale brown with a narrow, black or brown stripe from the snout to the shoulder and a pale stripe beneath the eye. The thighs are orange and may have black spots. The fingers are unwebbed and the toes are half webbed. The ear is distinct.

Size: Males 22-40 mm; Females 32-45 mm.

Habitat: It can be found on the ground, in vegetation, or under rocks near permanent streams or pools.

Breeding: Occurs anytime during the year. Eggs are deposited in small clumps attached to submerged vegetation.

Mating call: A loud, distinctive, high pitched 'cree creee creee cree' of 7 to 32 notes.



Bibron's Toadlet
Pseudophryne bibroni

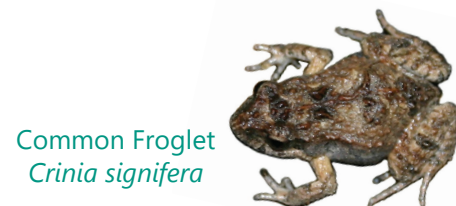
Although the most abundant and widespread of its genus, **Bibron's Toadlet** is believed to have become less abundant in recent times. It is generally found singularly or in low numbers under rocks and logs. Bibron's Toadlet is slate, dark brown or grey above with a scattering of darker flecks and orange or reddish spots and may have a yellow or orange area around the region of the vent. The belly is marbled black and white. Its skin can be smooth or granular and is usually scattered with a few warts.

Size: Males 22-30 mm; Females 25-32 mm.

Habitat: Found in damp areas with some cover such as logs and stones.

Breeding: Calling begins in February and continues until August. Eggs are deposited in damp leaf litter under logs and stones. Hatching of well-developed tadpoles occurs after rains flood the area.

Mating call: A short, grating, upwardly inflected 'ark'.



Common Froglet
Crinia signifera

The **Common Froglet** is the most commonly found frog in South Australia. It has highly variable skin colour and texture, even within populations. Colour ranges from cream through red, brown, grey and black. The skin may be plain, striped, patchy or spotted, and smooth, warty or ridged. The belly is usually white with black splotches.

Size: Males 18-25 mm; Females 19-29 mm.

Habitat: Found beneath rocks, vegetation and debris at the edge of creeks, ponds, wetlands and areas of seepage. During dry periods the frog may be found away from water sources.

Breeding: Breeds throughout the year except in mid summer. Eggs are laid in small bunches of 100-150 in shallow water.

Mating call: A single or rapidly repeated 'crick'.



Peron's Tree Frog
Pengillyia peronii

Introduced
into the region

Peron's Tree Frog is naturally found throughout the swamps of the Murray Valley and the South East but it has now become established in the Mount Lofty Ranges, possibly as a result of the pet trade. Characterised by a cross-shaped pupil, emerald spots and bright yellow and black markings in the groin and armpits. It has black markings along the edge of the ear drum and large pads on the fingers and toes. The fingers are not webbed, but the toes are almost fully webbed.

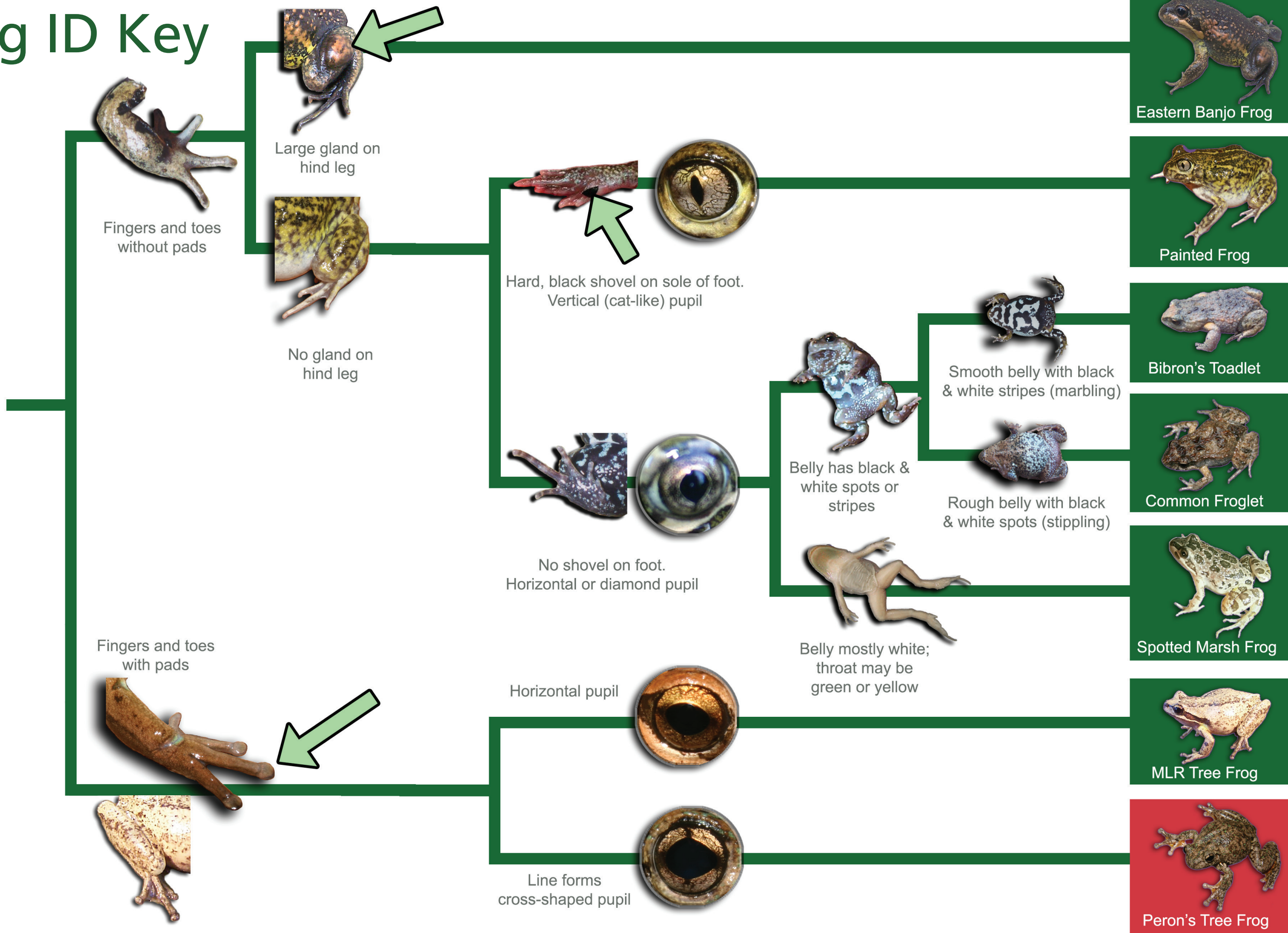
Size: Males 44-53 mm; Females 46-65 mm.

Habitat: In the Mount Lofty Ranges it has been found around ponds, dams and wetlands, and in well-vegetated garden areas.

Breeding: Male frogs commonly call from the ground or in vegetation which may be two metres or more above the water. The tadpoles are yellow with dark brown lateral stripes.

Mating call: A series of separated rattling notes resembling laughter. Commonly described as a 'maniacal cackle'.

Frog ID Key



Photos (c) Steve Walker, except Painted Frog foot (c) Peter Robertson (Museum Victoria)