

Common Froglet (*Crinia signifera*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing, fringes present.



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



■ Range

□ North Central Region



Photo © Lydia Fucsko 2011



Photos Leigh Mitchell, North Central CMA

Other common names: Clicking Froglet, Eastern Common Froglet, Day Frog, Varied Froglet, Signifera Froglet.

Adult description: The adult Common Froglet is a small ground dwelling frog, common and widespread throughout North Central Victoria and most of Eastern Australia. The colouring is extremely variable, but three patterns (morphs) are recognised: the first has longitudinal ridges along the back; the second has boomerang shaped ridges over the shoulder and on the back; and the third has a smooth unpatterned back, sometimes with small warts. Its belly may be white, brown-white or heavily mottled with black or dark brown. It varies in length from 18-28 mm, with females being larger than males.

Calling: Males call from amongst vegetation at the water's edge or from vegetation floating in open water which they cling to whilst calling for a mate. The call is a series of three to five pulsed calls, with a cricket-like chirp, rapidly repeated in a long series 'crick crick crick crick crick'.

Breeding: Its cricket-like chirping can be heard all day and all year round, but is usually heard during and after rain. Eggs and tadpoles are aquatic and can be found in ponds, dams, swamps, flooded grassland, ditches and hollows containing water.

Eggs & tadpoles: 100-150 pigmented eggs are usually laid, and can be found individually or in loose clumps, scattered on the substrate of ponds, dams, swamps and ditches. Tadpoles are light grey or brown all over with scattered dark flecks; some are sandy gold in colour. Metamorphosis from tadpole to frog takes between 40-70 days.

Habitat: Adults are commonly found in wet and dry forests, woodlands, floodplains, and in open and disturbed areas. They shelter under logs and other debris, usually in moist depressions or near water. Dozens of individuals may share the space beneath one log or rock.

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

Interesting facts and features: The Common Froglet recognises 'safety in numbers', with dozens of individuals sharing the space and protection offered beneath one log or rock. Can be distinguished from other members of the same genus by its call and belly colouration. Adults and tadpoles are an important food source for many wetland birds.

