

# Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*)



Pupils: Cross-shaped



Toes: Toe pads present, wider than digits.



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



■ Range

□ North Central Region



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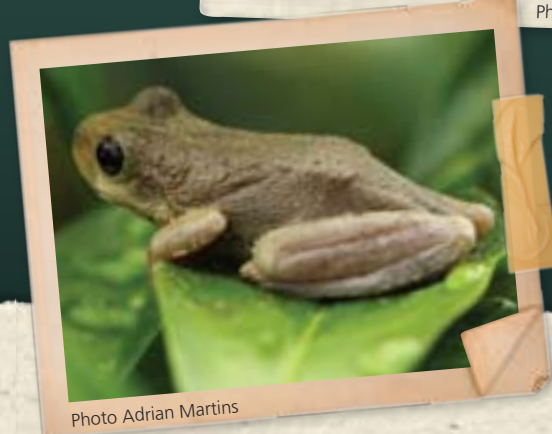


Photo Adrian Martins

**Other common names:** Emerald-spotted Tree Frog, Laughing Tree Frog, Maniacal Cackle Frog.

**Adult description:** The adult Peron's Tree Frog varies in colour from pale cream to dark grey. It has small (sometimes indistinct) emerald green spots on its body, and is bright yellowish-orange in the groin area, armpits and backs of the thighs. It has a very distinctive cross-shaped pupil, enabling distinction from all other Victorian frogs. They will grow in length between 30-70 mm, usually around 50 mm.

**Calling:** Males call from tree branches, the ground and from beside dams, ponds and pools during spring and summer to attract a mate. The call is very long and drawn out, and slowly increases in volume 'cra-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ahhk'.

**Breeding:** Breeding activity is more common after rain and usually occurs in temporary pools, dams and sometimes suburban ponds. Hatchlings occur four to six days after laying.

**Eggs & tadpoles:** Pigmented eggs are found during October and December, singly or in small clusters in jelly, near the water's edge, scattered over the substrate or among leaf litter and vegetation. Tadpoles are found in still water in swamps, dams, ponds, and lagoons. They are pale golden-yellow to iridescent green in colour, with a shiny pale green spot on the tip of the snout.

**Habitat:** Peron's Tree Frog is locally common and can be found in wet and dry forest, woodlands, shrublands, and open areas. They are usually found near water bodies, however they can be found in trees long distances from water. In Victoria, the Peron's Tree Frog is distributed throughout the Murray-Darling Basin, East Gippsland and Central Victoria. It prefers areas that have large old trees and fallen logs and branches. Peron's Tree Frog is a species that has adapted well to an urban setting - it can often be seen on windows or near lights at night, as it hunts the insects attracted to household lights.

**Conservation status & threats:** Non-threatened. Population is said to be steady, productive and possibly increasing. Potential threats however, 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:** Peron's Tree Frog has a distinctive loud call, almost like a 'machine gun' cackle, lending it to its other name the Maniacal Cackle Frog. It can change colour depending on the time of day, temperature and temperament of the individual. It can be found seemingly far from water sources and trees, but is probably moving between favoured sites. Large old River Red Gums can support several hundred frogs, which hide beneath the bark and in crevices.

