

Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, minimal to half webbing.



Eggs: Floating, foamy mass.



■ Range

□ North Central Region



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Other common names: Southern Bullfrog, Eastern Banjo Frog, Eastern Pobblebonk, Four-bob Frog, Bull Frog.

Adult description: The Pobblebonk is a variable species, ranging in colour from grey, olive-green, dark brown to black on its back with dark marbling, blotches or flecks. A pale stripe runs from under the eye to the arm, above this a dark band runs from the eye to the membrane covering the entrance to the ear. The belly is plain white or white-mottled with grey and/or black. The skin on the back may be either smooth or with small warts, and the underbelly is smooth. Some specimens have a pale stripe running down the spine. It grows to approximately 70 mm in length.

Calling: The call is a very characteristic single 'plonk' or 'bonk' repeated at intervals, sometimes likened to the pluck of a banjo string. When one frog starts calling others usually join in. Calling is more intense after heavy rain, with males often congregating and calling in large numbers.

Breeding: Females are able to reproduce at two to three years of age. Males call throughout most of the year from burrows at the water's edge or whilst floating in the water clinging to vegetation.

Eggs & tadpoles: The female will lay up to 4,000 eggs at one time in a large, floating foam nest of up to 1,800 mm diameter, which is usually concealed amongst aquatic vegetation. The egg mass is quite easily distinguished by a white foamy appearance; the female uses her forearms to whip up a mixture of air bubbles and clear jelly creating the foam. The tadpole is quite large and dark brown to black in colour, often with dull gold clusters of colour. Tadpoles spend most of their time at the bottom of still water swamps, streams, dams and lakes, feeding on sediment and other vegetation.

Habitat: The Pobblebonk frequents most habitats in North Central Victoria, including woodlands, wet and dry forests, heathland, farmland and grasslands. This frog is commonly seen after rain near dams, ditches and other bodies of still or slow-moving water.

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

Interesting facts and features: Most often confused with the Giant Banjo Frog (*L. interioris*) but can be easily distinguished by the lack of bright belly colouration (as seen on *L. interioris*, often bright yellow and black). This common and widespread species is often seen in large numbers following rain. So variable in colour, size and call, that it has been classified into five subspecies. It is a burrowing frog which uses its arms and legs to dig itself backwards into soft mud.

