

Southern Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingii*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads present, not wider than digits.



Eggs: Aquatic clumps in jelly, around submerged vegetation.



■ Range

□ North Central Region



Photo Ray Draper

Other common names: Brown Tree Frog, Ewing's Tree Frog, Whistling Tree Frog.

Adult description: As its name suggests, the Southern Brown Tree Frog is brown in colour, with a broad darker band running from the eyes down most of the back. It has a dark band from the nostril, through the eye, to the shoulder, with a pale white stripe running from the mouth to the arm. The back of the thighs and groin are yellow to red. May also display pale fawn, cream, orange, or light brown sides. The belly is smooth and a single, pale colour. The adult frog is usually around 45 mm, but may grow between 25-60 mm in length.

Calling: Males usually call from the ground, at the water's edge or in water, floating amongst the vegetation. The call is a series of rapid, whirring notes repeated 5-15 times 'creeeeeeee creee creee cree cree cree', with the first note usually the longest. Calling can be heard throughout the entire year, although most frequently after rain.

Breeding: Breeding males will display a light brown vocal sac. This species breeds all year round, peaking in late winter and early spring.

Eggs & tadpoles: The female will lay between 500-700 eggs in jelly-like clumps, which she attaches to submerged vegetation. The medium-sized tadpoles are pale golden-yellow to dark grey in colour. The fins are usually clear. Eggs and tadpoles can be found in still water in ponds, dams, lakes, streamside ponds and flooded roadside ditches. Hatching occurs within a few weeks of spawning. Tadpoles take between 12 and 26 weeks to reach metamorphosis.

Habitat: The Southern Brown Tree Frog can be found in a wide variety of habitats, including urban gardens, flooded grasslands, or amongst wet marshy areas. They frequent wet and flooded areas for breeding but can be heard calling long distances from 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: The Southern Brown Tree Frog is an agile climber and jumper, highly capable of leaping to catch a flying insect in mid-flight.

