



Red-crowned Toadlet



Despite its name, this is not a toad but a colourful little frog. The calls of Red-crowned Toadlets can be heard all year round. They call several times in quick succession, as these frogs commonly live in small colonies and answer each other.

Standard Common Name

Red-crowned Toadlet

Identification

The Red-crowned Toadlet is easy to identify by the bright orange-red triangle or 'T' shape on its head and a stripe on its lower back of the same colour. On its belly is a striking, marbled, black and white pattern.

Size range

Up to 3 cm

Life cycle

Hatching occurs when the tadpoles of the Red-crowned Toadlet are well developed and the site has had heavy rainfall. Until then, the male frog usually stays close to the developing eggs, but this is probably to defend the breeding site rather than the eggs.

Distribution

The Red-crowned Toadlet is restricted to the Hawkesbury sandstone areas surrounding Sydney. Numbers of Red-crowned Toadlet have declined due to habitat clearing for housing development.

Habitat

The Red-crowned Toadlet lives on open sandstone ridges with open bushland that has temporary small water bodies along drainage lines (Hawkesbury sandstone only).

Mating and reproduction

The Red-crowned Toadlet breeds in damp leaf litter. Eggs are laid as a small cluster on land under moist leaf litter, rocks and in small log holes, near temporary soaks and gutters. The nest is guarded by the male, as it is with other *Pseudophryne* species. Tadpoles can reach up to 3.5cm and are light or dark grey in colour, sometimes with dark spots. They are released into water bodies after the nest is flooded by rain, but will continue to develop inside the egg if it is too dry outside, therefore taking one to six months to develop into frogs once they hatch from the egg. Breeds at any time of the year after rain.

Conservation Status (IUCN): Vulnerable

Classification

Species: *australis*
Genus: *Pseudophryne*
Family: Myobatrachidae
Order: Anura
Subclass: Lissamphibia
Subphylum: Vertebrata
Phylum: Chordata
Kingdom: Animalia

