



Common Spadefoot Toad

Neobatrachus sudelli

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Adults

The Common Spadefoot Toad is a burrower, remaining underground for most of its time but becoming active after rainfall. Adults can be grey, brown or yellow on their back with large brown or olive green blotches. While their back is warty their underside is white and smooth. Reproductively active individuals have a back that is either smooth or covered in low rounded warts. They have baggy skin around their groin area which extends from the sides of the body down to the knees. They have webbed toes which make burrowing easier. This species can grow up to 40mm in length.



Common Spadefoot Toad (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)



Dorsal view (Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au)

Tadpoles

Tadpoles are large, rotund across the abdomen and silvery-grey in colour, with clear fins and sometimes dark flecks.

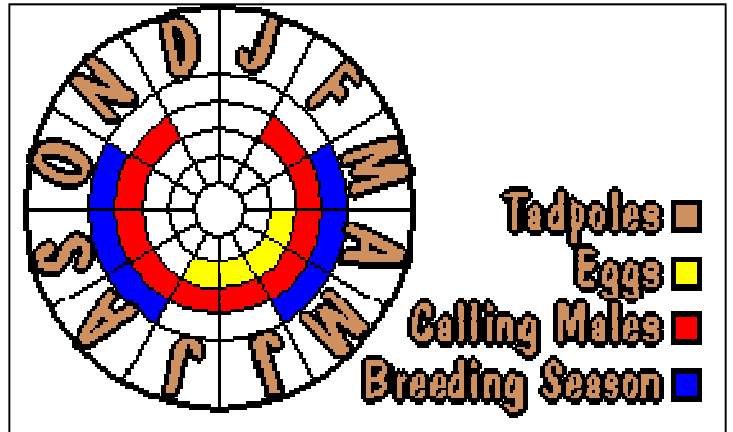
Eggs

The female Common Spadefoot Toad lays approximately 1000 pigmented eggs which are contained within long jelly strands, often wrapped around submerged vegetation. These will sink if disturbed. Eggs hatch 2 or 3 days after being laid.

LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

Male Common Spadefoot Toads call while floating in open water. They have a very similar call to that of *Neobatrachus pictus* but is a shorter and more slowly pulsed musical trill- “craa-aw-aw-aw-aw-aw-awk”. They call after heavy rain, during most seasons of the year.

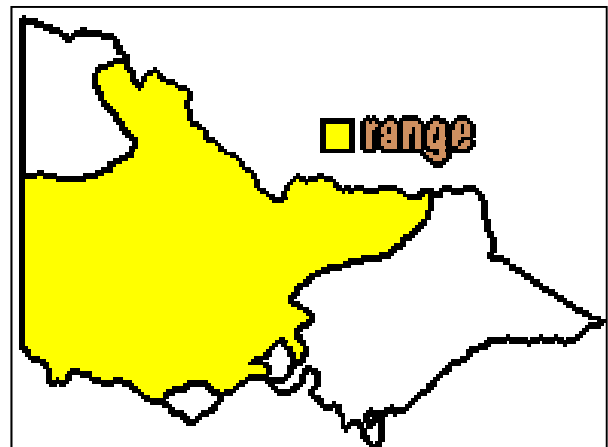
Males develop black spines during the mating season. Females become able to reproduce at about 2 years of age.



Life History Cycle (Source: www.frogs.org.au)

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Adults are commonly found in dry habitats such as woodlands, shrubland, mallee, open and disturbed areas. Both the eggs and tadpoles are aquatic and often reside within ponds, dams, ditches and flooded claypans. They are found throughout most of Victoria's dry regions. They are also found across much of New South Wales, southern Queensland and pockets of South Australia.



Victorian Distribution (Source: www.frogs.org.au)

IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

The Common Spadefoot Toad is not listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* as a threatened species. The distribution and population size of this species are both thought to be stable.

Suspected threatening processes to populations of this species include salinisation and modification of habitat such as weed infestation and vegetation removal.



Spadefoot toad (Source: Leigh Mitchell)