



# Plains Froglet

## *Crinia parinsignifera*

### DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

#### Adults

*Crinia parinsignifera* like all frogs from the genus *Crinia* are small, with an average length of about 20mm. They have a grey and granular belly with dorsal colours varying from brown, grey to almost black. These colours make up a variety of patterns covering their back. Such patterns include; light colouring with darker longitudinal stripes, grey to brown with variable dark patches, darkly coloured down the



Dorsal view (Source: Leigh Mitchell)

spine with longitudinal grey and brown stripes, and dark sides with lightly coloured back and incomplete darker stripes. The skin may be either smooth with some irregular warts or the longitudinal skin folds may be raised. The fingers and toes of this species have no webbing.



Dorsal view (Source: Leigh Mitchell)

#### Tadpoles

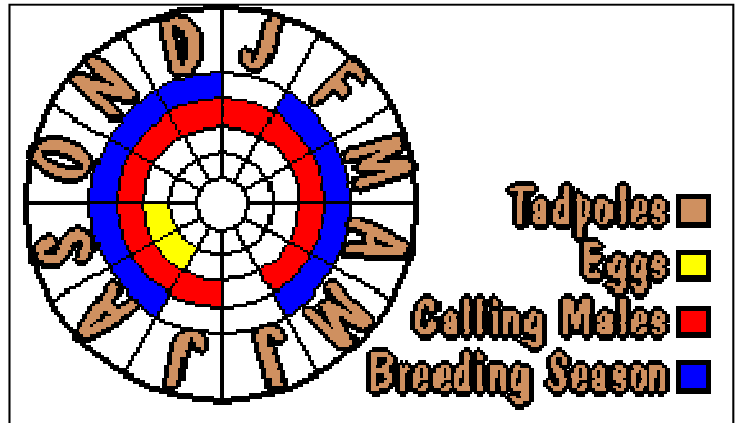
The tadpole of this species hatches three to four days after being laid. The tadpoles are quite small and are dark in colour with scattered flecks of black or gold. The tadpoles are bottom dwellers (where they are well camouflaged) and feed on fine particles of the substrate.

#### Eggs

Eggs are very small and mainly found singly or sometimes in loose clumps. They are attached to submerged branches, grass stems or substrate. When the eggs are attached singly, they are also well separated and located in still shallow water.

## LIFE CYCLE AND MATING CALL

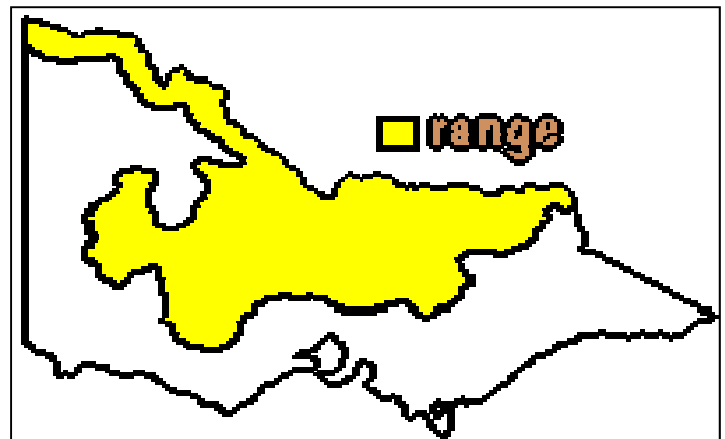
Males call from amongst debris and vegetation near the waters edge. Their call can be heard all year round but is more dominant from Autumn through to Spring. The call is heard mostly during the day. The mating call is a long drawn out “squelching” noise-“eeeeeeek”, repeating every few seconds. Breeding takes place in mid winter and is carried out for most of the year. The tadpoles take 11-12 weeks to develop. Females can first reproduce at <2yrs.



Life History Cycle (Source: [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au))

## HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Plains Froglet is found in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, covering an area of 686,429 km<sup>2</sup>. The image opposite shows they are well distributed throughout Victoria, occurring in seasonally dry forest, woodland and grassland areas. The Plains Froglets shelter under logs and leaf litter (where it is well camouflaged), it is found in the debris near the edges of swamps and ponds. This species is also found in open and disturbed areas. It is not uncommon to find this species in groups under a sheltered area.



Victorian Distribution (Source: [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au))

## IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL THREATS

The Plains Froglet is considered to be common throughout Victoria. Populations of this species are considered steady and productive. Possible threats to the Plains Froglet include: salinisation, habitat degradation and loss due to urbanization. Loss of temporary pools and soaks due to drought is another possible threat to this species. Presently there seems to be no major threat affecting their population size and this species is actually quite dominant in disturbed areas.



*Crinia parinsignifera*  
(Source: Leigh Mitchell)

