



Green Tree Frog



The Green Tree Frog is a familiar frog to many Australians and is the most popular species of pet frog overseas. The call of a Green Tree Frog is like a 'crawk...crawk....crawk'.

Standard Common Name

Green Tree Frog

Identification

Green Tree Frogs are one of the largest Australian frogs. The scientific name *caerulea* means 'blue', which was the colour of the specimen that arrived in London in 1790. The alcohol preservation may have altered the frog's true colour, fooling the early scientists. Nevertheless sometimes blue individuals are found that lack the yellow pigment and, much more rarely, yellow individuals that lack the blue pigment.

Size range

Up to 12 cm

Feeding and Diet

Green Tree Frogs sometimes sit beneath outside lights at night to catch insects that are attracted to the light, but they are also capable of taking larger prey on the ground, including mice. They have also been recorded catching bats around cave entrances.

Distribution

Green Tree Frogs are one of the most widespread of Australia's amphibians, found in all states except Victoria and Tasmania.

Habitat

Green Tree Frogs live in urban areas, forests and woodlands, wetlands and heath. They have a habit of taking up residence in and around suburban houses, around shower blocks and water tanks.

Life Cycle

Eggs are laid in clusters that float on the surface of the water in flooded ditches and small temporary ponds. Tadpoles can reach a total length of up to nearly 7cm and are dusky brown in colour. They swim throughout all levels of water bodies and take at least one month to develop into frogs, although tadpoles in colder areas may take much longer. Breeds during spring and summer.

Conservation Status

The Green Tree Frog population, like many frogs, has also suffered a decline over recent years. The species is long-lived and the oldest recorded captive frog died at 23 years of age. Because of this longevity the population decline went unnoticed for several years. Adults are still seen and heard regularly but young frogs are becoming scarce.

Conservation Status (IUCN): LEAST CONCERN (LC)

Classification

Species:	<i>caerulea</i>
Genus:	<i>Litoria</i>
Family:	Hylidae
Order:	Anura
Subclass:	Lissamphibia
Subphylum:	Vertebrata
Phylum:	Chordata
Kingdom:	Animalia