

Cophixalus neglectus

Kim Loeun, 2002

Authority: Zweifel, 1962

Common name: Neglected frog (Barker et al., 1995) or Bellenden Ker Nursery-frog (Queensland museum)

Description: *Cophixalus neglectus* is of moderate size ranging from 20-33mm (males) and 22-29mm (females). They are usually brown to orange on the dorsal side (Barker et al., 1995; Cogger, 2000). The ventral side has a pale colouration ranging from yellow-orange with some flecked brown (Barker et al., 1995; Cogger 2000, Queensland museum). Their fingers are small and poorly developed, usually not much wider than the penultimate phalanges (Cogger, 2000). The tibia length/snout-vent length ratio 0.31-0.42, the eye-naris/internarial distance ratio 0.65-0.88 (Cogger, 2000). Both the ventral and dorsal sides are smooth in texture (Cogger, 2000).

Distribution: *Cophixalus neglectus* has a very limited distributional range. In 1990 the distribution was between two mountain tops Mt Bartle Frere (17° 24'S, 145° 49'E) and Mt Bellenden Ker (17° 16'S, 145° 51'E) (McDonald, 1990). However, in recent years they have been known to only occur at Mt Bellenden Ker between Cairns and Innisfail, Queensland (Cogger, 2000; Anon, 2002; Zweifel, 1985).

Habitat: *Cophixalus neglectus* is restricted to rainforest areas above the elevation of 900 metres, they can be found under the floor cover where it is moist and damp. This also causes concern for their conservation with the increase threat of global warming (Cogger, 2000; Barker et al., 1995; Zweifel, 1985).

Reproduction: *Cophixalus neglectus* eggs were observed to be attended by adult frogs, the eggs made up three short bead-like chains. The egg capsules are 5.5mm in diameter and are similar to that of the Rattling Nursery frog (*Cophixalus hosmeri*) (Barker, et al., 1995; Queensland Museum). *Cophixalus neglectus* is a terrestrial breeder and eggs are found under foliage and rocks where frogs are present (it is not certain whether males guard the eggs or not). They usually lay 32 eggs per clutch (McDonald, 1990). However, more recent studies have found that each clutch only comprises about 14 eggs (Barker et al., 1995).

Similar species: *Cophixalus ornatus* is the only other species of *Cophixalus* known to live alongside *C. neglectus* (Cogger, 2000; Barker et al., 1995)

Vocalization: *Cophixalus neglectus* has a buzzing like sound lasting approximately 0.5 seconds (Barker, et al., 1995; McDonald, 1990).

References:

Anon (2002) http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/amphib_query?where-genus=Cophixalus&where-species=neglectus

Barker, J., Griggs, G., and Tyler, M. (1995) A field guide to Australian Frogs. Surrey Beatty & Sons.

Cogger, H. G. (2000) Reptiles & Amphibians of Australia. New Holland Publishers (Australia).

McDonald, K. R. (1990) Distribution Patterns and conservation status of north Queensland rainforest frogs. Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage.

Queensland museum () Wildlife of tropical North Queensland. ted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Zweifel, RG (1985) Australian Frogs of the family Microhylidae. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. His. 182: 265-388.