

## *Litoria bicolour*

Jamie Hooker, 2001

Authority: Gray, 1842

**Common Names:** Northern Dwarf Tree Frog, Green Reed Frog, Northern Sedgefrog

**Description** (Barker *et al.* 1995; Chambers 2001; Cogger 1996; Schoville): A very small frog with males ranging from 23-27mm in length and females ranging from 25-29mm in length. It is one of the smallest tree frogs found in Australia. Its dorsal surface is green, and its ventral surface pale yellow or cream coloured. Often the groin and backside of the thighs are gold. There is a broad bronze coloured stripe running down the back and across the vertebrae beginning at the snout. A dark bronze stripe along the side of the frog's body and down the snout, through the eyes and across the very distinct tympanum. This line separates the ventral and dorsal surfaces, often where the colours meet. A slender white stripe from the corner of the mouth and across the upper lip to the arms base, running just below the tympanum. Silky smooth skin characterizes this frog with the exception of a granular stomach and femoral region. Darker skin speckles the males throat region. Their eyes sparkle golden and vomerine teeth are absent. There is also a strong pectoral fold. The first finger is shorter than the second. The fingers are slightly webbed only to the middle of the penultimate phalanx of the first finger. Toes are fringed and  $\frac{3}{4}$  webbed with one phalanx on the outer fourth toe is free. Discs on both fingers and toes are distinct. A small inner metatarsal tubercle is present, but no outer one.

**Similar species** (Barker *et al.* 1995; Cogger 1996; Schoville): Extremely similar to *Litoria fallax* and was recognized a separate species in 1969. It is distinguished from *L. fallax* by the thin bronze lateral stripe, webbing on the first toe doesn't reach all the way to its base, and the ratio of body length to head is 73.5. The call is distinguishable because the beginning of the second part of the call lasts twice as long.

**Range** (Cogger 1996; Schoville): Located in three countries, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Australia. Usually found in wooded areas on vegetation such as pandanus palms and around permanent or semi-permanent water bodies. Located in coastal and adjacent areas from Northern Australia to Proserpine district in east Queensland and through to the Kimberly region in western Australia. Found at lower elevations in northeast Queensland because of the overlap with *L. fallax*. Located in New Guinea on Southern coastal areas.

**Ecology and behaviour** (Chambers 2001; Cogger 1996): Individuals often spend their time in and on vegetation during the dry season. Even in hot, dry conditions they can be exposed on upper surfaces of broad-leaved shrubs and often frequent leaf axils of pandanus palms.

**Breeding biology** (Barker *et al.* 1995; Cogger 1996): The breeding season begins in December with the summer rains. Breeding conditions found in aquatic and border vegetation of lagoons, swamps, and other various water bodies. Males call from within the aquatic vegetation. Eggs are attached to submerged vegetation once laid.

**Call** (Barker *et al.* 1995; Chambers 2001; Schoville): The call is a high pitched “wree-e-eck pippip” with the second part beginning before the first part has ended.

**Literature cited:**

Barker, S., Griggs, G.C. and Tyler, M.S. 1995. A field guide to Australian frogs. Surrey Beatty and sons, New South Wales.

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Cogger H.G. 1996. Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia. Reed books Australia, Port Melbourne.

Schoville S. Amphibia web. [http:// elib.cs.berkley.edu/cgi-bin/amphib\\_query?where-genus=Litoria& where-species=bicolour](http://elib.cs.berkley.edu/cgi-bin/amphib_query?where-genus=Litoria&where-species=bicolour)