

PINE BARRENS TREEFROG

Hyla andersonii

Order: Anura
Family: Hylidae
FNAI Ranks: G4/S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A small, lime-green frog with expanded disc-like toe pads and a yellow-edged, broad, maroon to chocolate-brown stripe on each side that extends forward from eye to nostril and onto hind leg. Belly white; many bright yellow spots on front and back of thighs and on side of body inside thighs and armpits. Adult body length (excluding legs) about 1.5 in. (38 mm). Call a nasal “quonk” repeated many times at intervals of about a half-second. Tadpoles to 1.5 in. (38 mm), dark olive with black spots on back, greenish yellow belly, and tail with black blotches.

Similar Species: No other Florida tree frog has wide maroon-brown stripe on sides and head plus yellow spots under the armpits. Green tree frog (*Hyla cinerea*) is more elongate and has a distinct, narrow, white or yellow line on each side and extending along jaw-line; its call is similar but lower-pitched and at longer intervals. Barking tree frog (*H. gratiosa*) usually has circular dark spots on back. Squirrel treefrog (*H. squirella*) is small and usually has ragged white line on side. Pine woods treefrog (*H. femoralis*) has bright yellow spots on back of thighs but nowhere else and is usually brown. Gray (*H. chrysocelis*) and bird-voiced (*H. avivoca*) treefrogs, although usually gray, can turn green; back pattern on both resembles tree bark, and skin is slightly warty.

Habitat: Acidic seepage bogs, both herbaceous and shrubby, draining sandy uplands. Water shallow and clear, sphagnum moss abundant. Common trees and shrubs include titi, sweet bay magnolia, fetterbush, red maple, tulip poplar, black gum, gallberry, pepperbush, and St. Johns wort. Extent of use of surrounding uplands is unknown.

Seasonal Occurrence: Calls March - September; tadpoles present May - August.

Florida Distribution: Restricted to essentially a three-county area (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and barely into Holmes) in the western Panhandle. The population

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in Florida and Alabama is widely disjunct from other more northerly populations of this generally Atlantic Coastal Plain species.

Range-wide Distribution: Three widely disjunct regions: New Jersey pine barrens, North and South Carolina, and western Florida and adjacent southern Alabama.

Conservation Status: Most Florida populations are within Eglin Air Force Base and Blackwater River State Forest.

Protection and Management: Work with land managers at Eglin Air Force Base and Blackwater River State Forest. Chief management tools are prescribed (or wild) fire in adjacent uplands, which should be allowed to burn into boggy or seepage habitats. Roads crossing upper reaches of streams should be closed or rerouted to prevent siltation. Streams should not be impounded, and existing impoundments should be removed carefully followed by reforestation. Avoid use of chemical biocides in adjacent uplands (where they are used in silviculture).

References: Ashton and Ashton 1988a, Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, Conant and Collins 1991, Means and Longden 1976, Means and Moler 1979, Moler 1981, Moler (ed.) 1992, Mount 1975.



