

## Red-crowned Toadlet

**Scientific Name:**

*Pseudophryne australis*

**Conservation Status in NSW:**

*Vulnerable*

Photo: Lydia Fucsko



**SPECIAL NOTE:** Drainage patterns, water quality and vegetation structures altered by urban expansion threaten the survival of the Red-crowned Toadlet.

**Description:**

The Red-crowned Toadlet is one of Australia's smallest frogs, only growing to 30mm. It is dark brown above with a distinct red or orange (yellow on rare occasions) crown patch on the head and snout. The same colour patch is also found on the tail bone area. Its belly is marbled black and white.

**Habitat:**

The Red-crowned Toadlet is restricted to specific habitats within the Sydney sandstone region. This hard-to-find species favours non-perennial streams, often on plateaus, which fill with autumn rains to allow the species to breed. Eggs are laid in small depressions or in egg chambers at the water's edge. Flooding of the pools allows the tadpoles to swim free. In warmer months, newly hatched tadpoles can become frogs in approximately eight weeks and measure just 8mm in length.

The Red-Crowned Toadlet has a call described as a soft squelch-like 'eeeeek eek' that is repeated several times in succession. It can sometimes be induced to call by giving a loud shout within close proximity of known habitat.

**Threats:**

The Red-crowned Toadlet and its habitat is threatened by urban expansion which alters drainage patterns, water quality and vegetation structures.

**Community Action:**

Warringah residents can ensure the Red-crowned Toadlet survives by ensuring pollutants do not enter waterways and preventing weed invasions into areas of habitat. A "bush friendly" garden may provide habitat for these unique creatures.

(Griffiths, K., 1997. Frogs & Reptiles of the Sydney Region. University of NSW, Sydney.)