

Pacific Tree Frog

The Pacific Tree Frog, also known as *Hyla Regilla* or *Pseudacris Regilla*, is found in the Pacific Northwest region of North America.

Although thought to be a coastal inhabitant, they are found as far east as western Montana. They have become famous as their voice is the one that Hollywood uses in all of its films as the "standard" frog call. Their "ribbit" is more of a "kreck-ek", and can be heard in the spring from southwestern Canada to Baja California.



The Pacific Tree Frog is quite small, growing only around .75 to 2 inches long. It has rough skin, a rather large head, a slim midsection, and very large eyes. Coloration is varied, ranging from light tan to black; however, the most common are shades of green or brown. The pattern of coloration can change in a short period of time, i.e. after ten minutes a dark brown frog with no spots may become a pale green with an abundance of dark spots. While this helps in camouflaging from predators, the tree frog cannot change willingly to match its background. Instead the change has to do with temperature and moisture. Predators include herons, bullfrogs, raccoons, and mink.

Contrary to their title, they usually live on the ground. They are found near springs, ponds, streams, swamps, and other wet places. They will live in damp recesses among rocks and logs and in dense vegetation. The young, or tadpoles, feed on algae and other pond plants, while the adults feed on small insects. Adhesive pads on their toes act like small suction cups so they are able to climb vertical surfaces like trees. They are good jumpers and climbers and can cling to just about any surface. The sticky quality of their toes has caught the interest of researchers in Scotland, who are studying the adhesive features of the toes to come up with new technology in the car tire industry.

These frogs are considered an "indicator" species. Since they are so sensitive to changes in the environment and water quality, they give us clues to the cleanliness and health of the ecosystem.

Resources

[Pacific Tree Frog](#) at AllAboutFrogs.ORG.

[Pacific Tree Frog](#) at Portland General Electric, Educational Services.

Pacific Tree Frog at the Government of British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks' BC Frogwatch Program site.

Hyla regilla (Pacific Tree Frog): Narrative at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology's Animal Diversity Web.