

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Animal Abstract

Element Code: AAABB01062

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Bufo debilis insidior*
COMMON NAME: Western Green Toad
SYNONYMS: *Bufo insidior*
FAMILY: Anura: Bufonidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Girard 1854. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 7:86-88.

TYPE LOCALITY: Lower part of Rio Bravo Valley, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

TYPE SPECIMEN: Syntypes: U.S.N.M. No. 2621, eight newly metamorphosed toadlets.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Virtually world-wide, with more than 250 species in genus; two subspecies occur in *B. debilis*, but only *B. d. insidior* occurs in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Stebbins, 1985:76. A small (1.125-2 inches long), flat, green or yellow-green toad with small black spots and bars on its back. The black markings may be more or less united to form a network. Large, elongate, widely separated parotoids. Cranial crests weak or absent. Large parotoids extend onto sides. Male has dark throat.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: A small, flat bright green toad with many black spots, but not a network as seen in *Bufo retiformis*. Black spots are interconnected rather than discrete as in *Bufo debilis debilis*. Vocal is a piercing cricket like trill.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color drawing (Stebbins 1985: plate 10)
Color photo (Behler & King 1979:254, 255)
Color photo (USGS web site)
Color photos (Tucson Herpetological Society web site)

TOTAL RANGE: Southwestern Kansas and southern Colorado to Zacatecas, Mexico, southeastern Arizona to eastern Texas.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Southeast corner of the state. San Simon, San Bernardino and Sulphur Springs Valley north to Safford and west to San Pedro Valley near Benson. In 1981, one observation reported for Maricopa County near Vekol Wash.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: A secretive, burrowing, mostly nocturnal toad. But will forage at twilight and during the day during heavy rains. Most active for brief times after and during rains. When threatened, it frequently flattens itself against the ground.

REPRODUCTION: Breeds April-August but only in and when temporary pools and streams are formed from summer rains. If conditions are not right, breeding may not take place. Eggs are arranged in long strings that are anchored to vegetation.

FOOD HABITS: Arthropods

HABITAT: In southeastern Arizona, grasslands, mesquite savannah, and creosote bush flats. Not usually found on steep slopes or in barren rocky areas.

ELEVATION: Sea level to 6,000 feet (1830 m), but mostly to around 4,000 feet (1220 m). Records in the Heritage Data Management System range between 2,025 and 5,080 ft (617-1548 m) (AGFD, unpublished data accessed 2002).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Grasslands and mesquite savannah, also creosote bush flats.

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

OTHER STATUS:

Full Species listed PR (Secretaria de Medio Ambiente 2000)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Arizona fishing license required to take any amphibian.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BLM – Phoenix and Safford Field Offices; FWS – San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge; State Land Department; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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