

# Canyon Treefrog

*Hyla arenicolor*  
Family Hylidae



**Global Rank:** G5

**State Rank:** S2 (CO); S3 (UT); S4 (NM); S5 (AZ)

**Distribution:** The canyon treefrog occurs from southern Utah and extreme western Colorado to Oaxaca, Mexico, and in all but extreme western Arizona, and in western New Mexico. Disjunct populations are found in Davis and Chisos Mountains of west Texas. Exists from near sea level to around 9,800 ft. (2,990 m.) in elevation.

**Description:** Adults reach 2 1/4 in. (5.6 cm.) in snout-vent length. This brown, cream, or olive-gray treefrog usually has no eyestripe. Often blotched or spotted with dark brown or olive, cream below, and grading to yellow on hind legs. Coloration can quickly change to match background. The throat of adult males is dusky. Vocal sacs are weakly bilobed and the voice is an explosive *ba-a-a* sounding like a hoarse lamb, goat, or duck.

**Reproduction:** Breeds from April through July or later, usually in rock-bound pools in canyon bottoms. Loose clusters of eggs are attached to rushes in shallow water. Tadpoles



*Current range of the canyon treefrog*

metamorphosed from late August to mid-October.

**Food:** Food habits are largely unknown. It is believed that they feed on a variety of invertebrates, including beetles, true bugs, caddisflies, ants, caterpillars, and annelid worms.

**Habits:** The canyon treefrog is closely associated with areas of large boulders and rock outcrops along wooded canyon streams. They may be observed clinging to boulders a short distance above water, and appear to "sun" for long periods, periodically returning to water to rehydrate. Individuals have been found at least a kilometer from permanent water sources. May frequent arroyos in semi-arid grassland, streams in pinon-juniper and pine-oak woodlands, and tropical scrub forests (in Mexico).

**Management Implications:** Common within preferred habitat of rocky riparian zones.

**Important References:** Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Degenhardt, W.G., C.H. Painter, and A.H. Price. 1996. The amphibians and reptiles of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM.