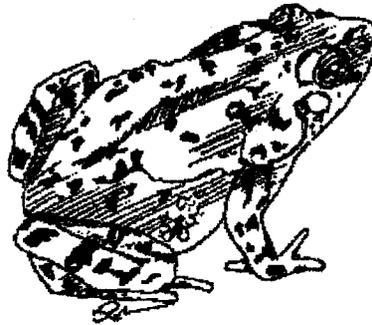


Green Toad

Bufo debilis
Family Bufonidae



Global Rank: G5

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

Distribution: Ranges from southeastern Colorado and southwestern Kansas to Zacatecas, Mexico, and from southeastern Arizona to Texas. In New Mexico, the green toad occurs in the southeastern half of the state. In most of their range, they may reach as high as 4,000 ft. (1,220 m.) in elevation. In a few locations, they extend to above 6,000 ft. (1,830 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adults reach up to 2 in. (5 cm.) in snout-vent length. This small, flat, green or yellow-green toad has small black spots and bars on its back. The black marking may be more or less united to form a network. There are large, elongate, widely separated paratoids. Cranial crests are weak or absent. The belly is white. Adult males have a dark throat; females are yellow or cream. The vocal sac is round, and the voice is a wheezy buzz lasting for up to 10 seconds.

Reproduction: The toad breeds in shallow temporary rain pools, fishless stock ponds, or



Current range of the green toad

along intermittent streams. Arrival at the breeding areas coincide with the start of summer rains, usually during the first couple of weeks in July, but could occur from April to August. Grass around pools usually sought as spawning sites. Metamorphosis normally takes place in late July to mid-August, although newly transformed toadlets have been found into late September.

Food: Diet is believed to be a large variety of small invertebrates including ants, beetles, and moths.

Habits: The green toad is a species of arid and semiarid plains, valleys, and foothills (treeless or with scattered shrubs and trees). Frequents grasslands, mesquite savannahs, and creosote flats. Usually not found on steep slopes or in barren rocky areas. This secretive, burrowing, nocturnal toad, generally abroad only for brief periods during and after rains.

Management Implications: There is little known about the natural history of this toad.

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.W. Painter, and A.H. Price. 1996. Amphibians and reptiles of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM.