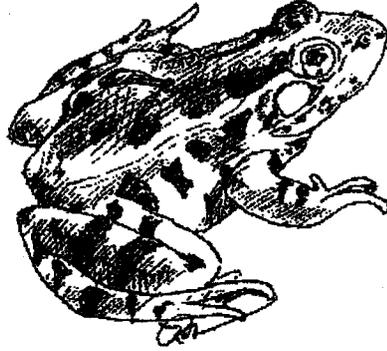


# Rio Grande Frog

*Rana berlandieri*  
Family Ranidae



**Global Rank:** G5

**State Rank:** SE3SE4 (AZ); S3 (NM)

**Distribution:** Known from extreme southern New Mexico (Pecos River drainage), central and western Texas into Mexico. Has been introduced into the lower Colorado and Gila Rivers in Arizona. Found between 2,950 ft. (900 m.) and 5,000 ft. (1,500 m.) in elevation.

**Description:** Adults reach up to 4 1/2 in. (11.2 cm.) in snout-vent length. It resembles the northern leopard frog, but generally much paler above, varying from grayish brown, brownish olive, to green or even blue-green. Dorsal spots are lighter and less clearly edged with light color. Dorsolateral folds segmented in front of groin and deflected inward. The eyes are wide. A wide, light-colored jaw stripe fades or is absent in front of eye. Often dusky below, especially on chest and throat where the dark pigment is mottled. Groin and underside of hind limbs often yellow. Adult males have swollen and darkened thumb base.

**Reproduction:** The breeding season extends from spring through fall, with a peak activity during April. Adult frogs have been heard call-



*Current range of the Rio Grande frog*

ing between April and August. Egg masses have been found from mid-April through early July, and were attached to emergent vegetation in deep, quiet water along streams. Tadpoles may overwinter.

**Food:** Food habits unknown, but probably feeds on a variety of insects and invertebrates.

**Habits:** Frequents streams, rivers and their side pools, springs, pools along arroyos, and stock ponds within grassland and woodland types. May disperse during wet periods. A key habitat component is the presence of holes or burrows that metamorphosed frogs can utilize for refugia.

**Management Implications:** Within the western states, known only from extreme southern New Mexico (Pecos River drainage) and where it has been introduced into the lower Colorado and Gila Rivers of Arizona.

**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.