

Sonoran Green Toad

Bufo retiformis
Family Bufonidae



Global Rank: G3G4

State Rank: S3 (AZ)

Distribution: Restricted from south-central Arizona south to west-central Sonora, Mexico. In southern Arizona, it is known from the Santa Rosa Wash in Pinal County, and the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to the vicinity of the San Xavier Mission in Pima County.

Description: Adults reach about 2 1/2 in. (5.6 cm.) in snout-vent length. Similar to the green toad, except that it is vividly marked above with a network of black or brownish that sets off oval areas of greenish yellow ground color. These oval areas are about twice the size of those on green toads of similar size. Adult males have dark throats.

Reproduction: Breeds from July to August in rainwater sumps and wash bottoms. Males begin to call at nightfall after summer rains, usually from grassy areas or within a foot or so of the water's edge. Due to the temporary nature of the water, the eggs are believed to hatch quickly and tadpoles quickly go through



Current range of the Sonoran green toad

metamorphosis.

Food: Believed to eat a large variety of insects and other invertebrates, including ants, beetles, and moths.

Habits: A secretive, nocturnal species of mesquite grassland and creosote bush desert. They seek shelter underground in burrows or under surface objects such as rocks and dry cattle dung. They are not usually seen except during the breeding season.

Management Implications: Limited range, but no known management concerns.

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.