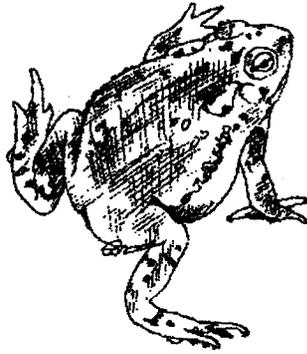


# Texas Toad

*Bufo speciosus*  
Family Bufonidae



**Global Rank:** G5

**State Rank:** S3 (NM)

**Distribution:** In New Mexico, this toad occurs only in the southeast in Lea, Chaves, and Eddy Counties. Overall, it ranges from extreme southwestern Kansas to Texas, into northeastern Mexico. It ranges from near sea level to about 4,000 ft. (1,220 m.) in elevation.

**Description:** Adults range to 3 1/2 in. (8.7 cm.) in snout-vent length. The Texas toad is a rather plain-colored, uniformly warty species with no dorsal stripe. Cranial crests are weak or absent. Tubercles on hind foot usually blackish and sharp-edged, the inner one sickle-shaped. Parotoid glands are oval and widely spaced. Coloration above is greenish gray to brown, sometimes with dark blotches on the back that are arranged in symmetrical pairs, and white to cream below, unmarked or with dark spots. Young have gray-brown coloration above, blotched with green and flecked with black, and warts tipped with red. Adult males have olive-colored skin on the deflated, sausage-shaped vocal sac which is covered by pale skin folds. The voice is a continuous series of explosive, shrill trills.



*Current range of the Texas toad*

**Reproduction:** Breeds after summer rainfall in almost any standing water, and may appear in deep muddy cattle tanks as well as roadside ditches or flooded low-lying grassy areas. After rainfall, the males reach the breeding areas first and begin calling. Fertilized eggs are laid in long strings and hatch in about two days. Tadpoles and newly transformed young have been found in July and August.

**Food:** Diet is largely unknown, although they probably feed on a variety of terrestrial and flying arthropods.

**Habits:** Shows a preference for sandy soils, generally in short-grass plains or mesquite savannahs.

**Management Implications:** Restricted range in New Mexico. It is abundant in mesquite grassland areas along the Black River in southern Eddy County. Hybridizes with similar toads.

**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.