

Shoemaker frog

Neobatrachus sutor

Fact sheet

SHARK BAY World Heritage



Description



The shoemaker frog is a round, short-legged frog with fully webbed toes. Its belly is smooth and white, and its shiny golden back is marked with brown or black blotches. Male shoemaker frogs are smaller than females.

The scientific name, *sutor*, refers to 'cobbler' or 'shoemaker' as the call sounds like a small hammer tapping nails into a shoe.

Length	Length	Weight
M:35-42mm	F:51mm	

Diet and habitat



The shoemaker frog burrows underground to avoid heat and drought. It makes a protective cocoon over its body to reduce water loss and goes into a state of inactivity, estivation, until conditions improve. Low-lying areas of clay or loamy soil that fill with water after heavy rain make good habitat. When not estivating they are most active at night and eat insects.

Breeding

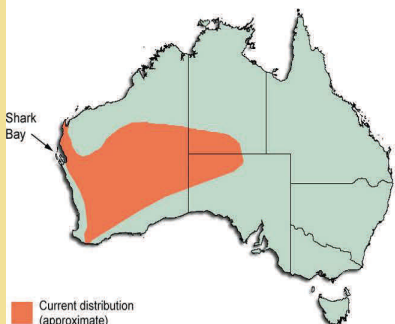


B.Maryan /Western Australian Museum

Shoemaker frogs surface to breed following summer rains after months, or even years, in estivation. Females lay eggs in still water where males fertilise them externally. An adult female can lay up to 1000 eggs in long strings. Tadpoles develop into adults in about 40 days, maturing before the water disappears.

Season	No. eggs	Adult
summer	up to1000	40 days

Distribution



Shoemaker frogs can be found in low-lying areas east and north of Hamelin Pool and north to the Wooramel River.

Status

The shoemaker frog population appears to be stable and does not have a special conservation status. However, global warming and other climate changes may harm this frog. Tadpoles are best left in their habitat: please respect them, not collect them.



Department of Parks and Wildlife

