

Guide to Tadpoles Found During Surveys for Flatwoods Salamanders in Florida

Common



Southern Leopard Frog (*Rana sphenocephala*)

Size: 0.8–2.8 in. (20–70 mm)

Body coloration variable and either uniform or subtly mottled (closely resembles the gopher frog tadpole photo); usually a light lip line; dorsal fin originates near tail-body junction and forms a low to medium arch



Ornate Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris ornata*)

Size: < 2.6 in. (65 mm)

Eyes lateral; unpigmented throat; high, arched dorsal tail fin that originates on middle of back; fat, white belly; body usually reddish brown



Southern Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris nigrita*)

Size: < 1.4 in. (35 mm)

Side of tail muscle not bi-colored; throat has dark reticulated pattern; dorsum dark to medium brown with pale dorsolateral stripes and gold blotches; belly is coppery gold color



Little Grass Frog (*Pseudacris ocularis*)

Size: < 1.2 in. (30 mm)

Eyes lateral; side of tail muscle distinctly bi-colored; pale silver to orange stripe from eye to tail base; many diffuse blotches on fins; black spots on dorsum of large specimens



Southern Toad (*Bufo terrestris*)

Size: < 1.1 in. (27 mm)

Body uniformly dark with golden lines extending backwards from below eye toward midline; long snout (≈ 3 eye diameters); tail dorsum uniform colored; newly hatched tadpoles appear nearly all black



Southern Cricket Frog (*Acris gryllus*)

Size: < 1.5 in. (38 mm)

Eyes dorsal; long spiracular tube that projects free from the body wall; dorsum is olive to dark buff, and the belly is pinkish; fins are clear with a black tail tip

Occasional



Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

Size: < 1.2 in. (30 mm)

Eyes lateral; dorsum of tail muscle may be crudely banded, uniformly dark, or mostly pale; throat speckled with widely spaced, large melanophores; dorsum uniformly medium brown to semi-transparent



Pig Frog (*Rana grylio*)

Size: 1.0–4.3 in. (25–110 mm)

Prominent to faint transverse golden, brassy, or russet band at mid-body; longitudinal row of dark dots in dorsal fin; dorsum is dark green and belly is yellowish with black reticulated pattern



Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)

Size: 1.0–5.5 in. (25–140 mm)

Body dorsum uniformly olive to bright green; dorsal fin and dorsal part of tail muscle may have many small, black dots with discrete borders, or the dots may be lacking; belly dense white to bright yellow



Gopher Frog (*Rana capito*)

Size: < 3.5 in. (90 mm)

Iris has iridiphores like the leopard frog tadpole, which it closely resembles; lacks white lip line; variable body coloration; fins clear or boldly marked; dorsal fin originates near tail-body junction and forms medium arch



Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*)

Size: < 1.4 in. (35 mm)

Small, almost terminal oral disc that folds shut when not in use; spiracle low on left side well below longitudinal axis; pointed snout; brown to bronze body with a clear to yellow belly



Pinewoods Treefrog (*Hyla femoralis*)

Size: < 1.2 in. (30 mm)

First found in late spring; basal $\frac{2}{3}$ of tail muscle has pale lateral stripe; clear parts of fin usually reddish; tail tip has an elongated filament; purple under eye; center of belly is sulfur yellow