

Adult amphibian identification on Haida Gwaii

Don't be distracted by colour. Adults come in many colours. For the **toads**, look for the *warts* and the *pale line* down the back of the toads (can be very pale/almost absent for juvenile toads), for the **Tree frog** look for the *bandit mask* and for the **Northern red-legged frog**, look for the *raised ridges* running down each side of their back.

NB. Sunscreen, insect repellent and natural oils on human skin harm amphibians. Don't move these creatures around, leave them where you found them. Toads are very loyal to their breeding sites so moving them could confuse them. The frogs are not native.

Western toad – *Anaxyrus boreas* - Hlk'yáan K'ust'áan in the in the Xaad Kíl dialect of the Haida language (source: Xaad Kíl Née) - only indigenous amphibian on Haida Gwaii – warts and pale line down centre of their back



Tree frog/Pacific chorus frog – *Pseudacris regilla* – introduced to Haida Gwaii in the 1930s & 1960s – bandit mask



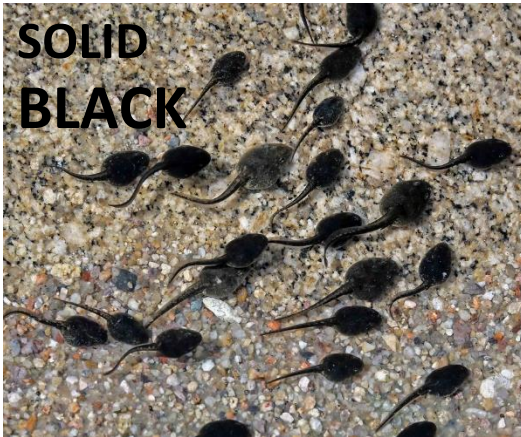
Northern red-legged frog – *Rana aurora* – introduced - likely in 1990s - raised ridges running down each side of back



Made by Roseanna Gamlen-Greene. For more info contact roseanna.gamlen.greene@gmail.com and check out www.haidagwaitoads.weebly.com. If you see toads, add them to the iNaturalist project! Check out the weebly website.

Amphibian tadpole and egg identification on Haida Gwaii

Western toad - *Anaxyrus boreas* - only indigenous amphibian on HG - don't touch eggs or move/take tadpoles/eggs



- Solid black tadpoles until they get bigger and then they can be a bit mottled. Hard to see their eyes. **Pointy head.**
- **Far less skittish than frog tadpoles**, toad tadpoles aren't very fazed by humans
- Usually cluster in large groups when small
- Usually in warm shallow water
- Eggs are laid all together in long strands in shallow water – get huge mass of many strings wound around vegetation
- Egg embryos black. White embryos means they died.



Tree frog/Chorus frog - *Pseudacris regilla* - introduced – don't move tadpoles/eggs around

Eyes bulging out slightly on sides of head!



- Tadpoles DARK or PALE yellow/brown. **Oval** shaped body. Can be confused with red-legged tadpoles
- Tadpoles smaller than red-legged frog tadpoles.
- Tadpoles are skittish.



- Egg mass is around the size of an adult person's **thumb**.
- Egg mass usually on blades of grass underwater
- Egg embryos can be black or yellow dots depending on development stage. White egg embryo means they died.

Northern red-legged frog – *Rana aurora* – introduced – don't move tadpoles/eggs around



- Tadpoles dark brown/red and sparkly. **Can be confused with the toad tadpoles.**

-Largest of the three species.

- Whole egg mass usually the size of a rock melon. Eggs can get dirty appearance – mud and algae.
- White egg embryos mean they died.



-Tadpoles very skittish – they move away very fast when you go near and often burrow into the bottom.

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