

BOOK REVIEW***Frogs of Tasmania. Fauna of Tasmania Handbook No. 6.***

By Murray Littlejohn, edited by Roy Swain and Michael Driessen
Published by the University of Tasmania, 2nd Edition 2003. 80 pages

Reviewed by Sue Baker

Frogs of Tasmania is another great little handbook from the *Fauna of Tasmania* series. The guide is extremely well researched and contains a lot of scientific information. However, because of the format, it is suitable for use both by people who can use identification keys and by the broader public, who can flick through the photographs and species descriptions in order to make an identification. The guide contains a one to two page description of each of Tasmania's eleven frog species. These include color photographs of the adults and also of egg masses for some species, a distribution map, and descriptions of adults, eggs, tadpoles, calls, and habitat details.

For the more enthusiastic user, there are good keys to species for adults, the calls of adult males, eggs, plus a trickier key that separates tadpoles into four groups (1 species, 2 genera, 1 subfamily). Although the keys to adults and tadpoles use scientific jargon, this is generally well explained by the accompanying labelled diagrams and glossary.

As well as an identification guide, roughly a third of the book consists of a broad ranging review of frog ecology and behaviour, including tips on approaches to studying them, taxonomy and conservation. The bibliography of references is a good starting point for more in-depth reading on the subject. Since frog decline is a serious threat to frogs worldwide, Murray Littlejohn's handbook will serve to encourage the interest of Tasmanians in conserving frogs and their habitat.