



## New Zealand's Native *Leiopelma* Frogs

New Zealand has three different native frogs. They have many special features that separate them from most other frogs; they have *no external eardrums, no vocal sac* and *have round pupils*. Native frogs are threatened by habitat loss and introduced predators, especially rats and pigs. Native frogs currently live in Central and Northern North Island and a few islands in the Marlborough sounds.

Hamilton's frog is the largest of the three native species. They vary in shades of light to dark brown, with darker blotches and/or speckle patterning. They have a ridge line pattern which extends from their nose and up over their eye to part way down their back. As a terrestrial species, they lack webbing on both the front and back feet.

### Hamilton's frog

**2017 NZ Conservation Status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable**



Image by Samuel Purdie Wildlife

### Hochstetter's frog

**2017 NZ Conservation Status: At Risk – Declining**



Image by Samuel Purdie Wildlife

Hochstetter's frogs are different from the two other terrestrial native frogs. They have partial webbing between their toes because they are semi-aquatic. Hochstetter's frogs have white fingertips. They are warty than the other two native species and are much slipperier!

Archey's frog is the smallest of the three native frogs found in New Zealand. They vary in shades of green and brown, with unique patterning and dark bands visible on their legs. These patterns help them blend in with the native forest. Archey's frogs have a dark ridge line pattern which extends from their nose and up over their eye to part way down their back. As a terrestrial species, they lack webbing on both the front and back feet.

### Archey's frog

**2017 NZ Conservation Status: At Risk – Declining**



Image by Samuel Purdie Wildlife



## New Zealand's Introduced Frogs

There are three Australian frog species that live in New Zealand. They are all tree frogs belonging to the super-diverse family Hylidae.

Introduced frogs are fairly easy to tell apart from the native frog species because they are all much larger and produce loud calls.

### Green and Golden Bell frog

**Introduced from Australia in the late 1860's**

These frogs have an overall green appearance with gold or bronze-coloured patches. They have a golden iris and their pupils are horizontal. There is a cream fold of skin from the eye along the side to the back leg. They have a copper-coloured eardrum. The skin is very smooth, and they only have webbing on their back feet. They have suckers for climbing on all toes and fingers.



Image by ©Mathias Michael

### Brown Tree frog

**Introduced from Australia in the 1875**



Image by ©Uwe Schneehagen

These frogs are generally a light brown colour. Most frogs have a lighter patch on the top of their head. Their bellies and throats are usually white or cream and the undersides of the thighs are bright orange. The eardrum is quite distinct and easily visible. The fingers and toes have suckers that are used for climbing.

### Southern Bell frog

**Introduced from Australia in the late 1860's**

These frogs are similar in colour to the green and golden bell frog but have more dark brown or black blotches on the back. The eardrum is easily visible. Southern bell frogs often have a warty back and there is a pale green stripe down the middle of their back. Only the back feet are webbed and they have no suckers on the ends of their toes.



Image by ©Scott Baker