



FACTSHEET

# Squelching Froglet

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**Common Name:** Squelching Froglet

**Scientific Name:** *Crinia insignifera*

**Noongar Name:** Warrkaly  
(general term for “frog”)

**Conservation Status:** All Rottnest Island’s fauna is protected under the Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987.

**Habitat:** Wetlands, freshwater seeps and brackish swamps

**Length:** 2.5 cm

**Description:**

The Squelching Froglet is a small frog with quite long legs.

These frogs rarely have the same colouring. They have complicated patterns of light and dark brown with grey stripe and blotches.

The belly of the Squelching Froglet is mottled grey and white and has a rough grainy feel. The skin on their backs can be smooth or have some bumps or ridges.

Males have dark edging around their lower jaws and are smaller in length than females.

**Diet:**

Invertebrates (insects).

**In the wild:**

Good water quality is vital for the survival of Rottnest’s frog populations which are genetically distinct from mainland populations. The brackish wetlands on Rottnest (swamps and seeps) provide very important breeding sites and habitat for this species.

Squelching frogs breed during the wet late autumn and winter months, but you can hear some males calling in late spring.

When calling, males often sit in fairly exposed places either in or next to open water. However, they also call from dense vegetation in the swamps.

Females lay their singly or in clumps in shallow water. The eggs sink to the bottom where they become hidden by a mud coating. The tadpoles are usually found in the shallows of permanent and temporary water.

During the day they lie still on the bottom, but they will bury themselves in the mud when disturbed. Metamorphosis (transformation from tadpole to frog) takes 2-5 months to occur.

### Threats:

On Rottnest Island habitat loss caused by:

- Increased salt levels in the swamp water due to human activity and sea water intrusion (inflow or seepage).
- Altered hydrological regimes (changes to the normal water cycle concerning the seeps and swamps such as too much nutrient-rich groundwater and sediment-heavy road run-off entering the water).
- Chemical or waste contamination.

### Disease

- Amphibian Chytrid Fungus.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Squelching Froglet is also known as the Sandplain Froglet.

The common name of this species is derived from the sound of the frogs' call. It makes a high pitched squelching sound, like drawing a wet finger over a balloon!