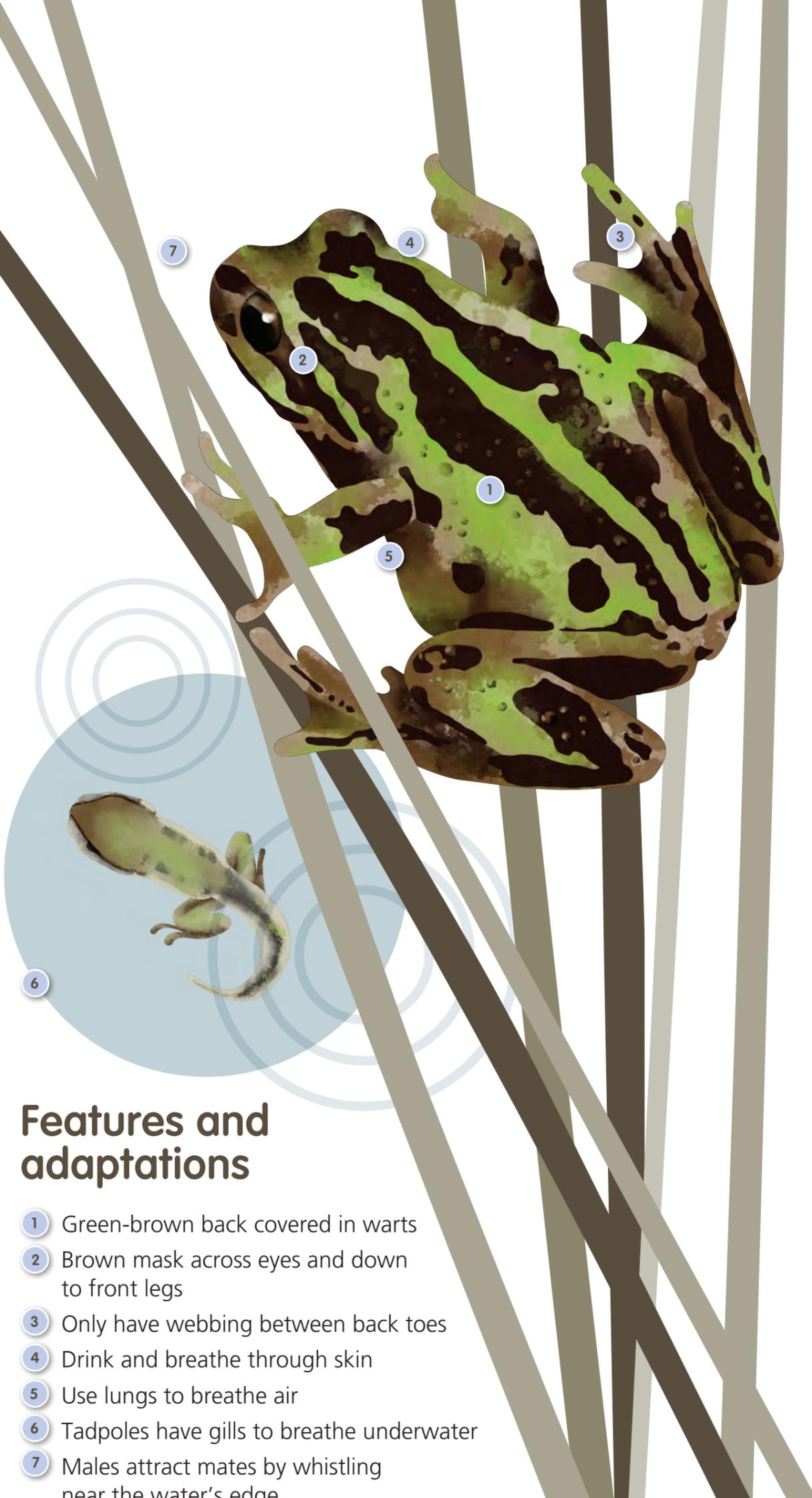


Alpine Tree Frog

Litoria verreauxii alpina



Features and adaptations

- 1 Green-brown back covered in warts
- 2 Brown mask across eyes and down to front legs
- 3 Only have webbing between back toes
- 4 Drink and breathe through skin
- 5 Use lungs to breathe air
- 6 Tadpoles have gills to breathe underwater
- 7 Males attract mates by whistling near the water's edge

Habitat



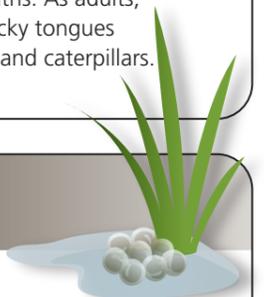
Alpine Tree Frogs are found in a small area of Victoria's alpine region. Healthy mountain wetlands and peatlands are important for breeding. During summer, adults lay their eggs in slow-flowing or still streams, bogs and pools. During winter, they live in mountain woodlands, grasslands and heathlands and shelter in rocks, logs and leaf litter.

Diet



Newly hatched tadpoles are so small they can only eat algae. As they grow, they start to munch on plants and small insects. Tadpoles need a lot of energy to grow quickly and will eat almost anything that fits in their mouths. As adults, Alpine Tree Frogs use their sticky tongues to catch flies, beetles, spiders and caterpillars.

Life stages



These amphibians spend part of their life in water and on land. Adult males sit by the water's edge and whistle for a mate. Females attach their eggs to underwater plants. After hatching, tadpoles live and grow in streams, ponds and bogs. They undergo metamorphosis before the end of summer, growing legs and lungs to live on the land.

Threats



Alpine Tree Frogs are vulnerable to pests, habitat loss, climate change, and diseases. Feral animals disturb precious alpine wetlands and peatlands. They compact the soil and graze on native plants. Changes to alpine water flow reduces the number of breeding pools. The introduction of chytrid fungus disease can be fatal for these amphibians.

Conservation



Frogs are an indicator species. This means changes to their population tell us about the health of their habitat. The Alpine Tree Frog population is decreasing, so we know their habitat needs our support. Rangers and friends care for this habitat by protecting breeding pools from pollution and feral animals, and by educating park visitors about our frogs that love bogs.

