A FIELD GUIDE TO
WESTERN REPTILES
AND AMPHIBIANS
THIRD EDITION

Text and Illustrations by
ROBERT C. STEBBINS

Professor Emeritus of Zoology
and Curator Emeritus of Herpetology,
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,
University of California, Berkeley

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formed. A Puerto Rican species, the Golden Coqui Frog (*E. coqui*), is ooviviparous.

Proportions froglike or toadlike. Underside of toes usually has prominent tubercles at joints, teeth are present in upper jaw, and eardrums generally are smooth and semitransparent. Some species have a circular fold of skin on belly.

Six species in U.S., 1 introduced.

**BARKING FROG** *Eleutherodactylus augusti*  
**Identification:** 2–3 3/4 in. (5.1–9.5 cm). Toadlike, but toes slender and unwebbed, with tips slightly expanded and prominent tubercles beneath joints. Walks in stilted fashion with hindquarters and heels well off the ground. Fold of skin across back of head and circular fold on belly. Eardrum smooth and semitransparent. Greenish to light brown above, marked with dark blotches that often have light borders. Conspicuous dark brown eyes. **Young:** Light-colored band across back that rapidly fades with age. **Male:** Much smaller than female.

Secretive, terrestrial, often rock-dwelling species frequently found in limestone areas. Hides by day under rocks and in mines, wells, caves, fissures, and rodent burrows. Ranges from creosote bush flats, treeless, dry, yucca-covered hills, or brushy woodland into open pine forests. In Tex., found in juniper–live oak woodland; in Sonora in large, low, dense clumps of cactus. Breeds with onset of summer rainy season. Eggs large-yolked and unpigmented; laid Feb.–June in caves, fissures, or under rocks during periods of rainfall. Young hatch fully formed (no aquatic larval stage). **Voice:** Resembles bark of a small dog—a series of rapid yapping notes at intervals of 1¼–3 seconds, but more of a guttural whurr at close range. May also sound like croak of a raven. **Similar Species:** Northern Casque-headed Frog, although having fold of skin at back of head, lacks transparent eardrums and numerous tubercles on underside of feet. **Range:** Extreme s. Ariz. (Santa Rita, Pajarito, and Huachuca Mts.), se. N.M. (lower Pecos R. drainage), and cen. Tex. (escarpment of Edwards Plateau) south to Isthmus of Tehuantepec. An old report for Parker Canyon, Sierra Anchas, Gila Co., Ariz., requires confirmation. Limestone outcrops in the area. Distribution spotty. Near sea level to 8,900 ft. (2,710 m) in Mexico.

**SPADEFOOT TOADS AND RELATIVES:**

**FAMILY PELOBATIDAE**

Our species, members of genera *Spea* and *Scaphiopus*, are found only in the New World. In general appearance they look a lot
Chiricahua Leopard Frog  
*Rana chiricahuensis*

black-bordered spot of similar color on each side of head; carapace lacks curved lines and ocelli. (2) Rio Grande Cooter has a C-shaped marking on 2nd costal scute. (3) Painted Turtle lacks headspot and serratations on posterior margin of carapace. RIO GRANDE COOTER Psuedemys gorzugi Pl. 21, Map 63 IDENTIFICATION: 3½—11½ in. (8.1—29.2 cm). Carapace ornately marked with complex pattern resembling a contour map of swirls of yellow, dusky, and black lines and blotches. 2nd costal scute usually bears conspicuous yellowish C-shaped marking. Yellowish green straps and white. On each side of head. Feet and tail striped with yellowish, red, and black. Plastron largely without pattern except for dark color along seams. Carapace has serrated rear margin. Young: Plastron may be marked with thin gray lines along seams. Old adults may become melanistic. Primarily a river turtle, especially attracted to quieter water and deeper pools. Substratum may be mud, sand, and/or rocks. Eats algae, probably other plants, and presumably fish and a variety of invertebrates. SIMILAR SPECIES: (1) Shell of Painted Turtle has smooth rear margin and plastron is ornately marked. (2) Pond Slider has patch of red on each side of head and smooth rear margin to carapace. RANGE: From extreme se. N.M. throughout w. and s. Tex. to s. Ariz., and Delaware Rivers. Report from Bitter Lakes area, Chavez Co., N.M. found between 4,199 and 4,626 ft. (1,280—1,410 m).

DESERT TORTOISES: FAMILY TESTUDINIDAE

Land-dwelling chelonians with domed shell and elephant-like snouts, ranging into some of the most arid parts of the world. About 40 species. Majority are herbivorous, feeding on leaves, soft stems, and fruits, but some occasionally eat animal-matter. Occur on all continents except Australia and Antarctica. Includes giant tortoises of Galapagos Is. and islands in Indian Ocean. Only the gopher tortoises (genus Gopherus) occur in N. America. In addition to our species, the Desert Tortoise (below), gopher tortoises include its close relative the Texas Tortoise of s. Tex. and extreme n. Mex.; e. Tex. across s. N.M. to se. Ariz. (to far west as e. base of Baboquivari Mts.) and Sonora. Near sea level to around 7,046 ft. (2,140 m).

RIO GRANDE COOTER Psuedemys gorzugi Pl. 21, Map 63 IDENTIFICATION: 3½—11½ in. (8.1—29.2 cm). Carapace with yellowish middorsal stripe and spots; plastron cream or yellowish with large dark central blotch. Male: First nail on each hind foot turns inward, which aids male in clinging to female during copulation. Iris red (yellowish or reddish brown in female) and head sometimes greenish.

Primarily a prairie turtle. Over much of range inhabits treeless plains and gently rolling country grown to grass or scattered low bushes, but also occurs in open woodlands. Seeks sites where soil is sandy or otherwise suitable for burrowing. Both self-con- structed burrows or those made by kangaroo rats may be used. May also be found under boards, rocks, and other objects. Box turtles are omnivorous, eating a great variety of animal and plant material—insects (beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, caterpillars) and other invertebrates, including earthworms and crayfish; reptiles, birds; carrion; berries, melons, cactus fruits and pads, tender shoots, and leaves. In some areas tortoise "sign" consists of dis- tinct piled of cow dung into which they have dug in search of insects and other insects. Active March—Nov. Breeds both spring and autumn. Clutch of 2—8 eggs, laid May—Aug. Activity stimulated by rainfall. RANGE: Sw. S.D., s. Mich., and Ind. south to Gulf coast and extreme n. Mex.; e. Tex. across s. N.M. to se. Ariz. (to far west as e. base of Baboquivari Mts.) and Sonora. Near sea level to around 7,046 ft. (2,140 m).
Cnemidophorus burti

Baja California

SIMILAR SPECIES: (1) Baja California Whiptail (Pl. 53; p. 358) has fewer than 6 stripes. (2) Western Whiptail (p. 326) has only vague striping (if any), spotted pattern, and divided frontoparietals. RANGE: Santa Ana R., Orange Co., and near Colton, San Bernardino Co., Calif., west of crest of Peninsular Ranges, south to tip of Baja Calif. Sea level to perhaps around 2,000 ft. (610 m). REMARKS: An estimated 75 percent of former range in U.S. destroyed by development; remaining populations highly fragmented.

WHIPTAILS

BAJA CALIFORNIA WHIPTAIL

Cnemidophorus labialis

Close relative of Orange-throated Whiptail endemic to Baja Calif. (see p. 428).

CANYON SPOTTED WHIPTAIL

Cnemidophorus burti

IDENTIFICATION: 3½–5½ in. (8.9–14 cm). A large, spotted whiptail with 6–7 light stripes; stripes faint or absent in large adult males. Vertebral (middorsal) stripe may be present or absent. More densely speckled with pale spots above. Often reddish color on head and neck, sometimes over entire back. Supraorbital semicircles not normal (Fig. 18, Pl. 37, p. 108), extending toward snout, often near front end of frontoparietal. Abruptly enlarged postantibrachials and scales on gular fold. 85–115 dorsal granules. Young: Ground color of body black, stripes yellow, well-defined whitish spots in dark fields on sides. Greenish blue toward tail. Primarily lives in bottomlands of historically perpetually disturbed habitats caused by flooding. Frequent areas of loose sand, gravelly to gravelly loamy sandy soil amid low grass, saltbush, desert tea, and scattered yucca and mesquite. Inhabits mostly plains grassland, floodplain habitats of sandy river basins, and edges of desert oases. 1–2 clutches of 1–4 eggs, laid June–July. Eats insects such as beetles, ants, lepidopterans, grasshoppers, and spiders. SIMILAR SPECIES: Distinguished from other striped whiptails by combination of forward extension of supraorbital semicircles, well-defined stripes with light spots in dark fields on sides, wavy middorsal stripe, and greenish blue tail. RANGE: Rio Grande valley from near southern part of range. Usually 6 or fewer light stripes. Color of dark field between pale dorsolateral stripe and lowermost middorsal stripe varies: may be gray, reddish brown, or dark brown to black. Young: Tail blue. Male: Throat, chest, and (far south in range) ventral surface (including underside of tail) may be orange, more distinctly so during breeding season.

Inhabits washes, streams, terraces, and other sandy areas where there are rocks and patches of brush and rocky hillsides. Frequent coastal chaparral, thornscrub, and streamside grasses. 1–2 clutches of 1–4 eggs, laid June–July in northern part of range. Eats insects (ants, termites, caterpillars, beetles, insects, larvae and pupae) and spiders. Recreant feeding on a hatchling Zebra-tailed Lizard and Side-blotched Lizard. SIMILAR SPECIES: (1) Baja California Whiptail (Pl. 53; p. 428) has at least 6 light dorsal stripes (usually 7 or 8); in snout where Orange-throated Whiptail shares its range, latter usually has fewer than 6 stripes. (2) Western Whiptail (p. 326) has only vague striping (if any), spotted pattern, and divided frontoparietals. RANGE: Santa Ana R., Orange Co., and near Colton, San Bernardino Co., Calif., west of crest of Peninsular Ranges, south to tip of Baja Calif. Sea level to perhaps around 2,000 ft. (610 m). REMARKS: An estimated 75 percent of former range in U.S. destroyed by development; remaining populations highly fragmented.