

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: AAABB01181

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Anaxyrus woodhousei australis*
COMMON NAME: Southwestern Woodhouse's Toad
SYNONYMS: *Bufo woodhousei woodhousei*, *Bufo woodhousei australis*
FAMILY: Anura: Bufonidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Frost, D. R., R. W. McDiarmid, and J. R. Mendelson III. 2008. Anura: Frogs. IN B. I. Crother (ed.), Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, pp. 2-12 SSAR Herpetological Circular 37.

TYPE LOCALITY: Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona.

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Genus essentially world-wide, more than 250 species; *B. w. australis* is moderately widespread subspecies of a widespread species.

DESCRIPTION: Stebbins, 1985:72. Size 1.75-5 inches long. White dorsal stripe, prominent cranial crests, and elongate, divergent paratoids. Dorsum colored gray, yellowish brown, olive, or blackish, usually with dark blotches. Yellow and black network on rear of thighs. Cream to beige below, with or without dark flecks.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Distinct narrow crests, separated by a trough toward the front. Tends to lack stripe on snout and to have well-developed black markings on each side of chest.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Black and white drawing (Stebbins 1985: plate 12)
Color photo (Behler and King 1979: plates 224, 248, 249)

TOTAL RANGE: For subspecies, southeastern Arizona to southwest and west-central New Mexico, southeast to western Texas, Chihuahua and east Sonora. Species occurs in most states from Rocky Mountains eastward.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Southeastern corner of the state.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: Prefers sandy areas.

REPRODUCTION: Breeds in quiet waters of streams, marshes, lakes, freshwater pools and irrigation ditches, usually during or soon after rains. Breeds March-July, sometimes as late as early September.

FOOD HABITS: Arthropods

HABITAT: In Arizona, primarily desert-grassland and desert areas, along courses of rivers and permanent or semi-permanent stream. Occasionally found at permanent lakes and ponds and in urban areas.

ELEVATION: To 8,500 feet (2,593 m).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Desert-grassland, sagebrush flats, desert stream communities, woodlands.

POPULATION TRENDS: Apparently decreasing in urban areas and along major waterways in southern Arizona.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

OTHER STATUS:

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Arizona fishing license required to take any amphibian.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

LITERATURE CITATIONS:

Behler, J.L. and F.W. King. 1979. The Audubon Society field guide to North American reptiles and amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. pp. 398-399.

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- Jones, K.B., D.R. Abbas and T. Bergstedt. 1981. Herpetological records from central and northeastern Arizona. Herp Review 12(1):16.
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- Shannon, F. and C.H. Lowe. 1955. [Description of *Bufo woodhousei australis*] Herpetologica 11(3):185-190.
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- Stebbins, R.C. 1951. Amphibians of western North America. University of California Press, Berkeley. pp. 286-293.
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- Wright, A.H. and A.A. Wright. 1949. Handbook of frogs and toads of the United States and Canada. Vol I. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York. pp. 206-210.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1992-12-17 (SSS)

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