

Cuban Treefrog

Osteopilus septentrionalis

Order: Anura

Family: Hylidae

Description: Largest treefrog in North America. Skin is green, bronze, or gray and warty. Enormous toe pads as large as external ear. Skin on top of head is fused to skull.

Special Features:

- **Activity** – Nocturnal
- **Feeding** – Eats almost anything it can catch and swallow.
- **Habitat Use** – The Cuban treefrog is most abundant around ornamental fishponds and well-lighted patios. They also hide among the timbers of highway billboards during the day and feed on insects attracted to the lights at night.
- **Introduction** – This species was probably introduced by accident into Key West on vegetable produce brought from Cuba early in the century. It continues to spread on the Florida mainland by hitchhiking on crates and transplanted shrubs.
- **Call** – A variable pitched, slightly rasping or grating snore.

Range and Habitat: Introduced into south Florida from Cuba. Can be found in moist and shady places in trees and shrubs or around houses.

Wild Diet: Insects

Reproduction: Eggs deposited in the water in lakes and ponds, drainage ditches, swimming pools, and cisterns from May to October. Males clasp females just behind the forelimbs for amplexus.

Predators: Birds, snakes, larger lizards and house pets (cats and dogs).

Notes:

- A treefrog's pupils are horizontal, and its toe tips expand into sticky adhesive pads used in climbing.
- The Cuban treefrog is extremely invasive and tends to drive native frogs (e.g. the green treefrog) out of their natural habitat.