

KLAPPENBACH'S RED-BELLIED TOAD

Melanophryniscus klappenbachi

Prigioni & Langone, 2000



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Family: Bufonidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

UNCOMMON



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Body length between 2.5 and 4 cm, females being bigger than males. The species is black with scattered yellow blotches all around body and flanks. Conspicuous yellow moustache-like pattern (sometimes broken with black) on lips.

Range: The species occurs in Paraguay and nearby north Argentina, in the provinces of Chaco, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero and Formosa.

Habitat: Scrublands and chaco-type habitats, always close to water.

Behavior: Mostly diurnal species, feeds in the morning on very small insects. Eggs are laid in temporary streams and pools. Known as an explosive breeder.

Status in the wild: The species remains locally common to abundant and can withstand some change in its habitat as long as water remains.

In captivity: The species is commoner than previously thought as most specimens imported in Europe or America as *M. stelzeri* belong in fact to this species. Known from at least 5 zoos in Europe and a few collections in USA. Difficult to breed.