

KEY TO THE TOADS (BUFO) OF OKLAHOMA¹

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The following key is based upon the examination of more than 5,000 specimens, young and adult, of Oklahoma toads, about three thousand of which, were seen while still alive. Since the specimens have been collected in all parts of the state, an attempt is made to include most of the individual variations within each species but this may not have been done with the rarer forms such as *Bufo punctatus* and *B. insidiosus*. Greatest difficulty may be expected in separating, by use of this key, *B. americanus americanus* from *B. woodhousii fowleri* collected in the southeastern part of the state and *B. w. fowleri* from *B. w. woodhousii* in the northeastern portion. The key will not always work perfectly for young individuals below two inches in length, because individuals smaller than this usually have not yet developed the cranial crests.

I hope to prepare similar keys for young toads and for toad tadpoles later, when adequate material has become available.

KEY TO ADULTS OF BUFO IN OKLAHOMA

1. With little or no evidence of cranial crests 2
1. With prominent cranial crests 4
2. Size small (up to 65 mm long); back with small black spots or irregular black areas 3
2. Size large (50-91 mm); back with irregularly placed dark spots variable in size and number on a background of gray or drab; venter, white; tympanum smaller than the eye; paratoids elongate and set at an angle. Distribution: southwestern counties, east to Jefferson and north to Custer.

Bufo compactilis Wiegmann (the desert toad).

3. Venter spotted; dorsal color grayish, greenish, or reddish. Distribution: scattered records from southern and western Oklahoma; very rare except in Wichita Mountains.

Bufo punctatus Baird and Girard (the canyon toad).

3. Venter immaculate or very nearly so; dorsal color a tracery of black and green, the latter color bright and predominating. Distribution: in the western third of the state; not common.

Bufo insidiosus Girard (the northern little green toad).

4. Ground-color of back most often faintly greenish, sometimes gray or brown; boss on snout (best developed on old females) from which the cranial crests form a V-shaped structure between the eyes; back with six to eight approximately paired very large dark spots (very rarely with fewer and scattered spots); venter always unspotted. Distribution: in prairies or prairie-islands in savannah only, from western Osage County southwestward.

Bufo cognatus Say (great plains toad).

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4. Ground-color of back varying from light gray through various shades of brown to nearly black; gray, reddish, or brown most common; never greenish; no boss or snout; cranial crests variable, but almost never forming a distinct V; back with small to medium sized spots which may approach pairing; pectoral spot or spots common but not always present 5
5. Size large (up to 135 mm long); color gray to nearly black, often with yellow in the groin especially on old females; prominent white line down the back; cranial crests diverge at approximately a right angle behind the eyes and extend laterally just to touch the anterior ends of the paratoids; venter sometimes immaculate but often with minor spotting anteriorly, especially near the arms; pectoral spot or spots common. Distribution: nearly statewide, rare in the northeast, not known southeast of central Cox County.
Bufo woodhousii woodhousii (Girard) (Rocky Mountain toad).
5. Size small (up to 80 mm long); dorsal surface with six to ten (sometimes more) pairs of spots (sometimes irregular in arrangement); venter varied as to spotting, often unspotted; cranial crests variable; not touching the paratoids at the sides; paratoids elongate and either parallel or nearest together near the middle and curved 6
6. Paratoids parallel, high and smooth; pectoral spot, when present, sometimes small and rounded; venter either immaculate or with few faint spots. Distribution: known from Adair and southeastern counties, probably present in southeastern fifth of state.
Bufo woodhousii fowleri (Hinckley) (Fowler's toad).
6. Paratoids curved and nearest together at the center; venter usually spotted but with great variation in amount; pectoral spot commonly present, typically long and large. Distribution: eastern half of state, in woodland, savannah and tall grass prairie.
Bufo americanus americanus (Holbrook) (American toad).