

FROGS OF THE *GEOCRINIA ROSEA* COMPLEX : CONSERVATION ISSUES AND PROSPECTS FOR REINTRODUCTION

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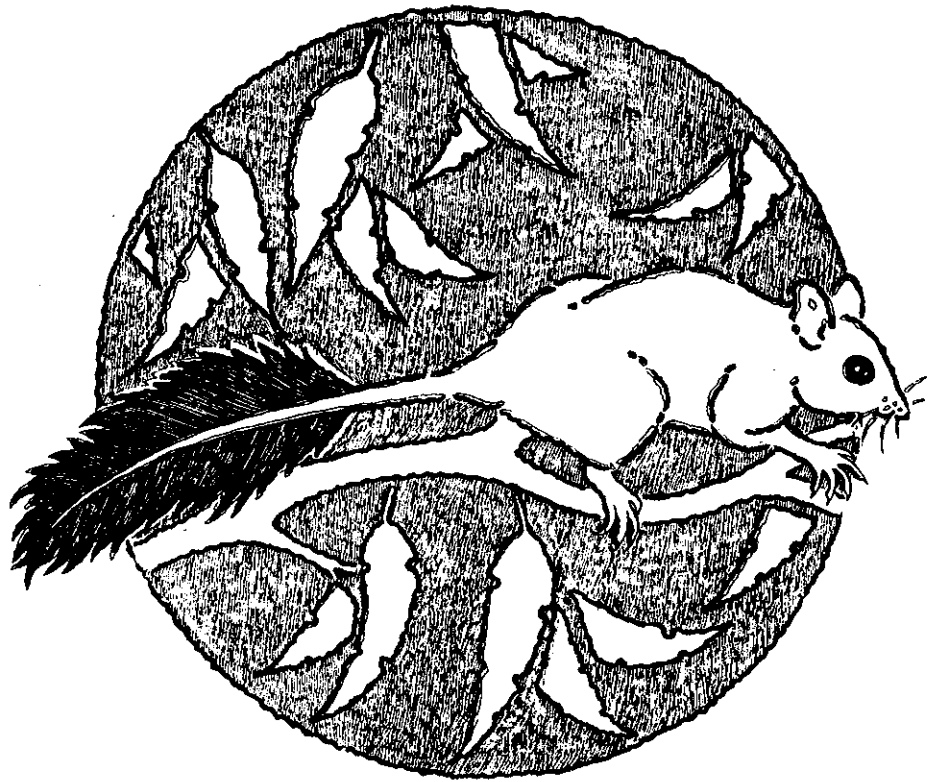
The *Geocrinia rosea* complex contains four frog species found across the far south-west corner of W.A. : *G. lutea* around Walpole; *G. rosea* from the drainages of the Deep to Shannon Rivers; *G. vitellina* in Spearwood Creek and four unnamed seepage systems, and, *G. alba*, between Witchclife and Karridale, west of the Blackwood River. All are spring-summer breeders with direct developing eggs. There are no threats to the long-term persistence of either *G. rosea* or *G. lutea*. *G. vitellina* has approximately 0.2 km² of breeding habitat and disturbance, e.g. by pig foraging, at any of the five known breeding sites could cause local extinction. Captive breeding, or, introduction to sites outside the natural range coupled with reintroduction programs may be warranted to replace unnatural loss of *G. vitellina* populations. *G. alba* has lost about 70% of suitable breeding sites to clearing within a total range of 101 km² with 1.9 km² of breeding habitat left. Local extinctions have occurred at monitored sites within the last ten years, some correlated with intense fires. Reintroduction of *G. alba* to cope with loss of populations caused by disturbance or to sites where vegetation has been rehabilitated may be warranted as long-term, conservation measures.

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