

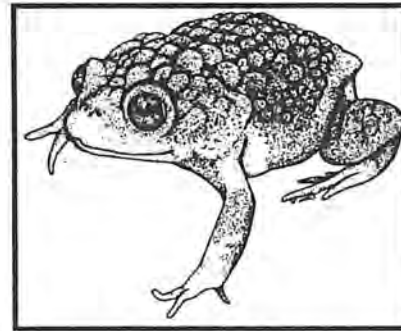
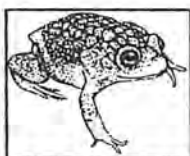
## The SUNSET FROG - working towards the preparation of a recovery plan

The Sunset Frog, *Spicospina flammocaerulea* is known only from a small area near Denmark, Western Australia. It is listed as threatened pursuant to the Western Australian *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and is included in 'Part 2 - Species that are vulnerable' of 'Schedule 1 Listed Species' of the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, having recently been transferred from 'Part 1 - Species that are Endangered'.

Concern has been expressed that the Sunset Frog is declining and that it may again meet IUCN Red List Criteria for Endangered.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) applied for matching funding from the Natural Heritage Trust to develop information for the preparation of a recovery plan for the species. An amount of \$25,000 was approved from the Trust to be spread over two years, with the project to be completed in January 2001.

CALM contracted Dr Dale Roberts, Zoology Department, The University of Western Australia to carry out important research on the species. Dr Roberts completed a report covering scope item: Developing techniques for estimating population size and methods for rapid survey. During 1999 he also developed data towards estimating populations and examine trends in population size at the localities and defining range and conservation status using rapid survey techniques.



The Sunset Frog is now known from 13 localities, some of which are on publicly-owned land and other of which are on private property.

A Recovery Team for the Sunset Frog is planned to be set up in 2000, to oversee the preparation of a recovery plan for the species.

## YORKRAKINE TRAPDOOR SPIDER - not extinct ~ just rare?

The Yorkrakine Trapdoor Spider *Kwonkan eboracum* was known only from a single site from near Yorkrakine Rock, Western Australia. It is listed as threatened pursuant to the Western Australian *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and has been nominated for listing in 'Part 1 - Species that are endangered' of 'Schedule 1 Listed Species' of the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, via a proposal from Western Australia that it be listed in the ANZECC List of Threatened Fauna.

In 1997, the Yorkrakine Trapdoor Spider was ranked as 'Critically Endangered' by the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee, pursuant to IUCN Red List Criteria.

In 1998, the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) applied for matching funding from the Natural Heritage Trust to carry out a search for the species, and if warranted, prepare

an Interim Recovery Plan for its protection. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment approved funding and a Financial Agreement was entered into between Environment Australia and CALM in February 1999.

CALM arranged for the Western Australian Museum to carry out searches which were made of areas likely to contain populations of the species. Scientists who carried out fieldwork during 1999 were Dr Mark Harvey, Western Australian Museum, and Dr Barbara York Main, Zoology Department The University of Western Australia.

No populations of *Kwonkan eboracum* were located during the main survey. However, additional trapping in narrow roadside vegetation at the type locality has since revealed that the species is not extinct, although it may be extremely rare. Further work is needed to clarify the status of the population in this remnant.