



Rana sylvatica.

On Stone by J.H. Richard.

P.S. Duval, Lith. Phil^a.

RANA SYLVATICA.—*Leconte*.*Plate XXIV.*

CHARACTERS. Body above pale reddish-brown, beneath yellowish-white; head with a very dark brown stripe, extending from the snout through the eye, and including the tympanum.

SYNONYMES. *Rana sylvatica*, *Leconte*, *Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.*, vol. i. p. 282.

Rana Pennsylvanica, *Harlan*, *Silliman's Journ.*, vol. x. p. 60.

Wood-frog, *Vulgo*.

DESCRIPTION. The superior surface of this frog is of a pale reddish-brown colour, with a slight tinge of green. The head is small, narrow, and pointed. A very dark brown stripe, narrow before and broader behind, begins at the snout and extends to near the shoulder, including the nostrils, the pupil, the inferior half of the eye, and the tympanum, which is of moderate size; below this dark vitta is a yellowish-white line, extending to the shoulder: a black spot is usually present at the base of the anterior extremities. The upper jaw is bronzed, and mottled with dark brown; the lower is nearly white, having only a few black spots. The palate is armed with minute teeth, in two groups between the posterior part of the posterior nares. The nostrils are placed nearer the point of the snout than in *Rana halecina*. The eyes are large, the pupil is black, and oval in shape; the iris is very dark brown below, but the portion above the pupil is golden. The tympanum is small, and very dark brown.

The back is pale reddish-brown, with two cutaneous folds or elevated longitudinal yellow lines, often interrupted with black spots, extending from the orbit to

the posterior extremity of the body. The flanks below these lines are mottled in front, greenish-white in the middle, and yellow near the thighs. The inferior surface is silver-white at the throat and anterior part of the abdomen; yellowish-white on the posterior part, and yellow near the thighs.

The anterior extremities are short, coloured above like the back, with a dark brown band running from the humerus towards the lower jaw, and another interrupted black line on its posterior border. The fore-arm is blotched, or banded with dusky: the palms are more tuberculous than usual; there are four fingers, distinct, flesh-coloured on their inferior surface. The posterior extremities are extremely long, coloured like the back, with regular transverse bands of darker brown continued to the feet; beneath, the thigh is flesh-coloured and granulated behind, white and smooth in front, and yellow near the abdomen. There are five toes, well palmated, but not to their tips, dark above and flesh-colour below. The tips of the fingers and toes are slightly enlarged and obtuse.

DIMENSIONS. Length of the body from the snout to the vent, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; of the thigh, 1 inch; of the leg, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches; of the tarsus and toes, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches: total length, from the snout to the extremities of the toes, $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. The *Rana sylvatica* I thought was confined to the Atlantic states, from New Hampshire to Virginia, but Dr. Kirtland informs me that they are common in the woods of Ohio and of Michigan.

HABITS. This frog is found, though not abundantly, in the woods of the northern and middle states, choosing thick forests of oak. It is active, and when pursued, conceals itself among dried leaves, the colour of which it so nearly resembles as to be discovered with difficulty. In general it is found far from water, which it only approaches in the breeding season.

GENERAL REMARKS. I cannot find any notice of this frog previous to the memoir of Leconte, in which it is indicated under the very appropriate name of

Rana sylvatica, but not fully described. Harlan nearly at the same time published a detailed and satisfactory account of it in the tenth volume of Silliman's Journal.

Schlegel supposes this animal identical with the *Rana temporaria* of Europe, to which it bears a strong resemblance—yet it is always a smaller animal, with the head more pointed, and with a smaller tympanum. I am not disposed to make an exception in favour of this animal to the general rule, that there is not a reptile in Europe identical with any one of the United States.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Rana sylvatica – Leconte." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 4, 99–101. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326844>.

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