



*Hyla viridis.*

*Sera pinx't*

*J.S. Duval, Lith.*

HYLA VIRIDIS.—*Laurenti*.= *H. cinerea* (Pinn.) (Schmid)  
Var. *viridis*

## Plate XXIX.

**CHARACTERS.** Body above bright green, beneath yellowish-white, and granulated; a lateral line of straw-colour extends from the upper jaw over the shoulder and along the flanks.

**SYNONYMES.** Green Tree-frog, *Catesby*, Carolina, &c., vol. ii. p. 71, pl. lxxi.

*Hyla viridis*, *Laurenti*, Synops. Rept., p. 33, variety B.

Cinereous Frog, *Pennant*, Arct. Zool., vol. iii. p. 42.

*Rana arborea*, *Gmelin*, Syst. Nat. Lin., variety B. tom. i. p. 1054.

*Calamita cinerea*, *Schneider*, Hist. Amphib., fas. i. p. 174.

*Hyla lateralis*, *Latreille*, Hist. Nat. Rept., tom. ii. p. 180.

*Hyla lateralis*, *Daudin*, Hist. Nat. des Rain., &c., p. 16. pl. ii. fig. 1.

*Hyla lateralis*, *Daudin*, Hist. Nat. des Rept., tom. viii. p. 27.

*Calamita lateralis*, *Merrem*, Versuch eines Syst. der Amphib., p. 171.

*Hyla lateralis*, *Leconte*, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., vol. ii. p. 279.

*Hyla lateralis*, *Dumeril et Bibron*, Hist. Nat. des Rept., tom. viii. p. 587.

*Hyla lateralis*, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 107.

*H. gratiole* Lac  
Proc. Ac. N. Y.  
1856

**DESCRIPTION.** The head is short and flattened; above it is of a bright grass-green colour, as well as at the sides; the snout is obtuse; the upper jaw is green in front, but dull white behind. The mouth is moderate in size, the tongue is large and sub-cordiform, and the palate is armed with a transverse row of minute teeth between the posterior nares, interrupted in the middle. The nostrils are nearer the snout than to the orbit. The eyes are large and prominent, the pupil dark, with a beautiful golden iris; the tympanum is small, but very distinct, and green like the body. The body is stout and depressed, of a lively grass-green, with



occasional spots of brightest gold colour; a pale straw-coloured line begins under the anterior part of the orbit, runs beneath the eye and tympanum, and is continued above the shoulder along the flanks to near the posterior extremities; this line is partially visible on the posterior part of the upper jaw, giving it a whitish appearance. The throat is yellowish-white; the thorax silvery; the abdomen yellowish-white, and granulated.

The anterior extremities are coloured like the body above, white below, with a pale yellow line along the posterior border of the humerus, fore-arm, and carpus, to the external finger; this line becomes very distinct only near the elbow; there are four fingers, palmated to about one-sixth of their length, each ending in a rounded pellet, by which the animal can sustain itself on smooth places. The posterior extremities are very long, and green on the upper surface; the thigh is yellow beneath, and granulated; the nates are flesh-colour, with a few dusky spots; the leg is pale flesh-colour below, with a yellow line before and behind, which is continued along the tarsus to the outer toe; there are five toes, palmated to four-fifths of their length, the two external green above, the three internal dirty yellow, each terminates in a rounded pellet, similar to those of the fingers.

**DIMENSIONS.** Length from snout to vent,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; of thigh, 8 lines; of leg,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lines; of tarsus and toes, 1 inch 2 lines.

**HABITS.** These animals are found on trees, but most commonly about the broad-leaved plants, as the *Pontederia cordata*, *Nymphæa*, &c.; they are also very numerous in fields of Indian corn (*Zea maïs*), where they conceal themselves from their enemies by passing in between the broad green leaves of the plant, the colour of which is so nearly their own, that it is not easy to find them. Here they remain quiet and motionless during the heat of the day, but in the morning or evening, or before a shower, they emerge from their hiding-places and become very brisk and noisy.

Their noise proceeds from a single note, which, at a little distance, is not unlike



the sound of a small bell; and there seems in general to be one leader of their orchestra, and when he raises his note, hundreds take it up from all parts of the cornfield, and when he stops, the concert is at an end, until he again begins.

They feed on various insects, especially the common fly, which they seize with great adroitness, leaping a foot or more to secure it. At certain seasons they may be seen on the ground on their way to pools of water; they are then exceedingly active, leaping at times eight or ten feet.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.** For the present we must set down latitude  $33^{\circ}$ , on the Atlantic coast, as the northern limit of the *Hyla viridis*; thence it extends through Georgia, Florida and Alabama to Mississippi, but I have no evidence of its existence further west.

**GENERAL REMARKS.** The first notice of the *Hyla viridis*, now under consideration, is in Catesby's History of Carolina, &c.; he there calls it the Green Tree-frog, and gives a very good detailed account of its habits, accompanied with a tolerably accurate drawing.

Linnæus seems to have regarded this animal as a variety of the common *Rana arborea*, which he says, incorrectly however, inhabits both Europe and America.

The next account of the *Hyla viridis* is found in the Synopsis Reptilium of Laurenti, who first separated the genus *Hyla* from that of *Rana*. He called the Tree-frog of Europe "*Hyla viridis*," and considered the Tree-frog of Catesby as a variety under the same name. Now, the specific name of *viridis* cannot be used for the Tree-frog of Europe, inasmuch as Linnæus and other naturalists had previously imposed upon it that of *arborea*; and this leaves the specific name *viridis* unapplied, and consequently it may be used for our animal, as given it by Laurenti, who seemed to consider it as very distinct from the common Tree-frog of Europe; nor can there be any doubt of his meaning, for he refers expressly to Catesby's seventy-second plate of the second volume, saying, "*Corpore tereti*,

linea, utrinque flava, sed recta, distinguitur clamore, tschit, tschit, tschit, dum nostro (*Hyla arborea*) clamat ra-ra-ra.”\*

The next account of the *Hyla viridis* is in the supplement to Pennant's *Arctic Zoology*, where it is described as the Cinereous Frog, with a white line along the flanks; the green colour doubtless had become cinereous, owing to the action of alcohol on the specimen which he examined.

Gmelin, in his edition of the *Systema Naturæ*, goes back to the opinion of Linnæus, and considers the *Hyla viridis* as only a variety of the *Rana* (*Hyla*) *arborea*; but he adds a reference to Catesby.

Schneider also calls it a variety of his *Calamita arborea*, though he says, “non solum linearum diversa disectio, sed vox etiam distinguit.”

Bosc observed the living animal in Carolina, and gave a detailed and accurate account of it to Latreille and Daudin, under the name *Hyla lateralis*, which was afterwards published in their respective works. This name, however, cannot be retained in this work—that of *Hyla viridis* having the right of priority.

\* Laurenti, *Synops. Rept.*, p. 33.





Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Hyla viridis – Laurenti." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 4, 119–122. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326849>.

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