



Hylodes Pickeringii

J.H. Richard, del.

P.S. Duval, Lith. Phil^a

HYLODES PICKERINGII.—*Holbrook.**Plate XXXIV.*

CHARACTERS. Head rather short; body yellowish-brown, with small, dusky, rhomboidal spots, and lines of same colour, sometimes arranged in form of a cross; abdomen pale flesh-colour; throat tinged with yellow. Length, $11\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

DESCRIPTION. The head is short, yellowish-brown above, with the snout rather pointed. The tongue is large, long, and slightly notched posteriorly. The palate is armed with two groups of exceedingly minute teeth in a range with the posterior nares.

The nostrils are lateral, and nearer the snout than the orbit, with an indistinct dusky line extending from each to the eye. The eyes are large and prominent; the pupil is black, and the iris brilliant gold colour, with a tinge of green. The snout is pale yellow; the body is short and delicately formed, fawn colour, marked with small rhomboidal dusky spots and lines of the same colour, which latter are sometimes arranged in a cruciform manner; one line is at times very distinct, and extends from the back of the orbit to the flanks; the abdomen is pale flesh-colour.

The anterior extremities are coloured like the back, and marked with transverse dusky bars, and terminate in four distinct fingers; these, as well as the bulbs at the tips, are proportionally less developed than in the genus *Hyla*; the posterior extremities are long, with five toes, palmated, and terminating like the fingers in small bulbs.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head and body, $11\frac{1}{2}$ lines; length of thigh, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lines; length of leg, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lines; length of tarsus and toes, $9\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

HABITS. The *Hylodes Pickeringii* is most commonly found on the ground, though at times I have seen it waiting for its prey on the leaves of shrubs and plants growing near the water, as *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, &c. It feeds on small insects, as flies, &c.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This animal is found in Massachusetts, and is particularly abundant, according to Dr. Pickering, in the vicinity of Salem. Dr. Dekay and Mr. Cooper have observed it in New York, and there is a specimen in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, found in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia.

GENERAL REMARKS. Dr. Pickering several years since called my attention to this animal as one undescribed, and to him I have dedicated the species. It seems hitherto to have been confounded by some naturalists with the *Hyla squirella*, from which it may at all times be distinguished, by the absence of the white line reaching along the upper lip to the fore-shoulder; by the difference of marking about its back; by its smaller size; by its extremities being less proportionably developed; and by the wide difference in its geographical distribution. Others again have considered it a remarkable variety of the *Hyla versicolor*, from which, however, it is specifically distinct, never reaching half the size of that animal, and never having the skin granulated.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Hylodes pickeringii – Holbrook." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 4, 135–136. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326854>.

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