



Bufo lentiginosus.

On Stone by S. Cichowski.

F. S. Duval, Lith. Phil^{de}

BUFO.—*Laurenti.*

Genus BUFO.—CHARACTERS. Head large; mouth extensive; tongue elongated, elliptical, entire, generally a little larger behind, free posteriorly; jaws and palate without teeth; eyes large, pupil elliptical longitudinally, dilatable; tympanum more or less distinct; parotid glands more or less developed; males mostly with a sub-gular vocal vesicle; four fingers, sub-round, free; five toes of same form, more or less palmate, the last shorter than the penultimate; metatarsal region with two tubercles below, the one at the root of great toe largest.

BUFO LENTIGINOSUS.—*Shaw.*

Plate I.

CHARACTERS. Head large; snout obtuse; superciliary ridges greatly elevated and terminating posteriorly in a knob; upper jaw emarginate, lower furnished with a hook in front; parotid glands large, reniform, and reaching from below the tympanum to near the shoulder; tympanum large; vocal vesicle internal; body above warty, dusky brown, with a tinge of yellow; beneath granulated, dirty yellowish-white. Length 3 inches.

SYNONYMES. Land-frog, *Catesby*, Carolina, &c., vol. ii. tab. 69.

Land-frog, *Bartram*, Travels in Carolina and Florida, &c., p. 279.

Rana lentiginosa, *Shaw*, Gen. Zool., vol. iii. part i. pl. 53, p. 173.

Bufo musicus, *Daudin*, Rainettes, p. 92, tab. 33, fig. 3;—Hist. Rept., tom. viii. p. 190.

Bufo musicus, *Bosc*, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., tom. vi. p. 490.

Bufo musicus, *Merrem*, Versuch eines Syst. der Amphib., p. 181.

Bufo musicus, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 113.

Carolina Toad, *Vulgo*.

DESCRIPTION. The head is very large, dark-coloured, and without warts, except a few small ones on the eyelids. The mouth is of great size, without either maxillary or palatine teeth. The snout is obtuse, and from its tip runs an elevated bony line, subdividing at the nostrils, and forming the superciliary ridges; these increase in elevation as they reach the posterior part of the orbit, where they terminate in a rounded knob or tubercle; their great height gives to the upper surface of the head a canaliculated appearance; a second ridge descends from each of these, and completes the posterior border of the orbit. The upper jaw is yellowish-brown, and deeply emarginate in front; the lower is white, and furnished at its anterior part with a distinct hook, which is received in the notch of the upper jaw.

The nostrils are small and round, placed near the point of the snout. The eyes are large, prominent, and very beautiful; the pupil is black, the iris reticulated with gold and black, and has an inner margin of yellow. The tympanum is large and dusky, with a minute spot of a lighter shade in the centre. The parotid glands are large, reniform, and exude a pale milky fluid when pressed; the orifices of the canals, out of which it flows, are evident.

The back and sides are dusky, and covered with warts of different sizes; a pale vertebral line extends from the head to the vent, on each side of which are found the largest warts; an irregular row of spots of yellowish-white exists on the flank, having somewhat the appearance of an indistinct band, extending from the inferior and posterior part of the parotid gland to within a short distance of the thighs. The whole inferior surface of the animal is dirty-white, with a strong tinge of yellow.

The anterior extremities are short; the upper surface is dusky, with blotches

and bars of dark brown; the lower surface dirty-white, tinged with yellow. The fingers are four in number, slightly depressed, and not palmated. On the outer margin of the carpus, and opposite the thumb, is a large warty tubercle. The posterior extremities are short, dusky brown above, marked with blotches and transverse bars of darker brown, and dingy-white beneath. The toes are five in number, and semi-palmated; the fourth a good deal longer than the others; the metatarsus is furnished with two tubercles or knobs, the outer of which is cartilaginous, and so long as to resemble a sixth toe.

DIMENSIONS. Length of body, 2 inches 7 lines; of the thigh, 1 inch; of leg, rather less than an inch; of tarsus and toes, 1 inch 2 lines.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This toad is found in the Carolinas, Georgia, the Floridas, and Alabama, and without doubt all along the northern shores of the Gulf of Mexico. North Carolina or southern Virginia must for the present be considered as its northern limit.

HABITS. This animal is timid and remarkably gentle in its habits, remaining concealed during the day in some dark place, and only venturing out as the dusk of evening approaches. It feeds on various insects, which it seizes only while alive and in motion. Catesby says it lives on ants and fire-flies, and will mistake a piece of burning charcoal for an insect of the latter description. The male seeks the female in the month of May, when hundreds of them may be seen together in some stagnant pool, in which they deposit their spawn, and then return again to the land. The males at this season are extremely noisy, though at other times they are silent, or make only a slight chirp when taken. Like many of the *Hyla* tribe, they have a large sac under the throat, which is distended when the animal croaks.

I have seen an individual kept for a long space of time, which became perfectly tame: during the summer months he would retire to a corner of the room, into a habitation he had prepared for himself, in a small quantity of earth, placed there

for his convenience. Towards evening he would wander about the room in search of food, seizing greedily whatever insect came in his way. Some water having been squeezed from a sponge upon his head one hot day in July, he returned the next to the same spot, and seemed very well pleased with the repetition; nor did he fail during the extreme heat of the summer to repair to it frequently, in search of his shower-bath.

GENERAL REMARKS. Catesby first described and gave a figure of this animal under the name of Land-frog; and although his figure is badly executed, both as to drawing and colouring, (the elevation of the superciliary ridges not being marked, and the eyes represented as red,) it has been repeatedly copied by later naturalists, as Foster, Shaw, &c. The name, however, *Rana (Bufo) terrestris*, cannot be retained, as it is previously applied to another animal.

Bosc, who, from a long residence in Carolina, had a good opportunity of examining this animal, refers it to the *Rana musica* of Linnæus, in which he is followed by Daudin, Merrem, and most naturalists. This cannot be correct, for there are no toads, as far as has been hitherto ascertained, common to North and South America; and Linnæus, in the twelfth edition of the *Systema Naturæ*, gives Surinam as the country of his *Rana musica*. Neither the specific name *terrestris*, nor *musicus*, can then be applied to this animal, but we must give it the one next in order under which it is found described—*Rana (Bufo) lentiginosa* of Shaw.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Bufo lentiginosus – Laurenti." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 7–10.
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