



Bufo quercicus.

C. Rogers, pencil

F. S. Dural, Lith. Phila.

BUFO QUERCICUS.—*Holbrook.**Plate III.*

CHARACTERS. Head short; snout pointed; superciliary arches slightly elevated; body short, very flat, rounded at the flanks, above dusky, with a yellowish vertebral line, on each side of which are black blotches; abdomen silver-grey; throat dusky; groins tinged with yellow.

DESCRIPTION. The head is short, with the snout rather pointed, and the nostrils near its extremity; from each nostril extends a slightly elevated ridge, increasing in height to the occiput, where it terminates in a small knob. The eyes are prominent and beautiful, with a black pupil and grey iris, having an inner circle of bright golden; the tympanum is evident but small; the parotid glands are oblong and large, though but slightly elevated.

The body is short and greatly depressed, almost flat; while the flanks are so rounded and projecting as to give the animal an orbicular appearance. The abdomen is flat and completely granulated.

The anterior extremities are small, short, and terminate in four fingers, with a small wart at the carpus; the posterior extremities are also short, small, and delicate, with five slightly webbed toes, and two small warts at the metatarsus.

COLOUR. The head above is dusky, with a yellowish central longitudinal line; the superciliary ridges are grey, with a white mark in the centre; on each side of this longitudinal line is an oblong black spot, extending from it to include most

of the posterior part of the orbit of the eye; a small part only of the orbit in front of this is light coloured; the upper jaw is light brown.

The back of the animal is dusky-brown, with a vertebral line of pale yellow, marked with a few scattered small warts of reddish-brown colour; on each side of this line are irregular black blotches, with here and there a slight tinge of reddish-brown; the back is covered with innumerable warts and granulations, of variable size and colour, generally black, but the smaller ones of dusky-red; on each flank, and extending from the axilla downwards towards the posterior extremity, is an oblong black blotch, bounded with white both above and below.

The throat is dusky; the abdomen silver-grey, yellowish at the groins, and with a pale tinge of yellow around the vent. The anterior extremities, as well as the posterior, are dusky-brown above, marked with black transverse bars or spots; their inferior surface is coloured like the abdomen, except the fingers and toes, which are reddish-brown.

DIMENSIONS. Length of the animal from the snout to vent, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch; length of thigh, 5 lines; length of leg, 5 lines; length of tarsus and toes, $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

HABITS. This beautiful little species of toad is mostly found about sandy places that are covered with a small species of oak, which springs up so abundantly where pine forests have been destroyed; whence it is commonly enough called the Oak Frog, which specific name I have preferred. It spends most of its time in concealment under fallen leaves, or partially buried in the sand, from which it is washed out by heavy rains. In the breeding season they seek out stagnant pools, where they deposit their spawn, during which time the male makes a slight chirp, not unlike some kinds of insects.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. As yet the range of this animal seems very limited: I have only found it near Charleston in South Carolina, and at Smithville

in North Carolina; further observation will doubtless prove its existence in other states.

GENERAL REMARKS. That this little animal is not the young of any other species I am certain, for

1. It cannot be the young of the *Bufo lentiginosus*, for the superciliary ridges are not elevated in proportion, the upper jaw is not emarginate, and with the young of that species I am well acquainted.

2. It cannot be the young of the *Bufo Americanus*, as that animal is not found near Charleston, and besides, it wants the characteristic spade-like process to the foot.

3. It cannot be the young of the *Bufo erithronotus*, for its whole form is different. It is not half the size, nor are its toes half as extensively webbed; it is, in fact, a distinct and adult animal, for I have seen male and female together, and have seen the female deposit her spawn, even when confined in a glass vessel.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Bufo quercicus – Holbrook." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 13–16.
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