

Treefrogs: Our Noisy Neighbors



Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*)

Size: About 2.5 inches

Identification: Coloration may vary greatly, from dark brown to bright, vibrant green, with a long lateral yellow or white stripe. Golden spots are also often present on the back.

Green treefrogs are most commonly found in bushes and grasses near water (for instance the NATL SEEP). Their calls ("queenk-queenk-queenk") are nearly always given near permanent wetlands and are a common feature of any humid or rainy evening.

What are treefrogs?

As their name suggests, treefrogs are excellent climbers, thanks to the enlarged, disk-like sticky tips of their toes. NATL is home to 3 native and one non-native species.



Cuban treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)

Cuban treefrogs, which are native to the Caribbean, are the largest found in North America. Like other treefrogs, they will eat nearly anything that moves. However, their large size and habits similar to other species mean that they consume native species. Their impact on native treefrogs is presently under investigation by UF scientists.

Tips for spotting Invasive Cuban tree frogs:

Adults are very large, up to five inches. They have large toe pads and warty skin along their backs and legs. Color ranges from pale tan/green to dark brown or green. Individuals may or may not have dark markings on their backs and legs. The skin above their head is fused to their skulls and they become white when inactive or cold.

Squirrel treefrogs can be found nearly everywhere in NATL but they are heard more than seen. During warm months, males produce a chattering, squirrel-like "rain call," often from high in trees. This is in contrast to the mating call, which has a distinct duck-like sound.



Squirrel Treefrog (*Hyla squirella*)

Size: Only about 1.5 inches

Identification: Coloration varies from green to yellowish-green to brown. A yellow bar is prominent below the eyes.



Pinewoods treefrog (*Hyla femoralis*)

The pinewoods treefrog prefers to be high in the trees and spends much of its time away from permanent bodies of water. Their call is a nasal "dot dot dot dot dot".

Size: 1 to 1.5 inches

Identification: Color varies from deep reddish brown to gray or green. The rear end of the thighs have a row of small orange spots.

PVC pipes provide shelter for tree frogs. Inside the tube, it's dark and moist, the perfect home for a frog.



Larger diameter PVC pipes serve as refuges for all sizes of treefrogs. Unfortunately, since Cuban treefrogs can be considerably larger than native species, these refuges can turn into places where Cuban treefrogs find and eat smaller natives.