

Key to the Families of adult frogs of Namibia

After Alan Channing 2001. Amphibians of Central and Southern Africa. Protea Bookhouse, Pretoria

To date seven Families of frogs have been recorded from Namibia. Adult frogs can be assigned to their respective Families by using this key.

- 1a. Tongue absent, 3 claws on each foot (Fig. 1) **Pipidae (platannas)**
 1b. Tongue present **2**

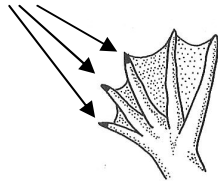


Fig. 1: Foot with three claws

- 2a. Upper jaw toothless **3**
 2b. Upper jaw with fine teeth (Fig. 2) **5**

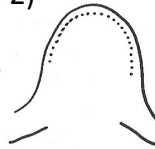


Fig. 2: Upper jaw with fine teeth

- 3a. Snout pointed, hardened for digging; eyes small (Fig. 3) **Hemisotidae (snout-burrowers)**
 3b. Snout not hardened for digging **4**

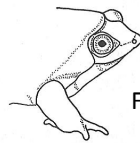


Fig. 3: Sharp snout

- 4a. Traverse folds on palate **Microhylidae (rain & rubber frogs)**
 4b. No traverse folds on palate **Bufonidae (toads)**

- 5a. Last segment of finger out of linear alignment (Tree Frogs – Fig. 4) **6**
 5b. Last phalanx of finger not out of alignment **Ranidae (common frogs)**

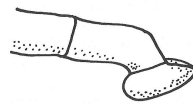


Fig. 4: Finger tip out of line

- 6a. Fingers arranged in two opposing pairs (Fig. 5) **Rhacophoridae (gray tree frog)**
 6b. Fingers not arranged in two opposing pairs (Fig. 6) **Hyperoliidae (reed frogs)**



Fig. 5: Fingers in pairs

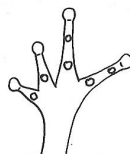


Fig. 6: Fingers not in pairs