



Colorado River Toad *Bufo alvarius*

Description: The Colorado River Toad is also known as the Sonora Desert toad. It is the largest native toad in the United States, measuring 3-6 inches in length. It is olive green to brown in color and has a cream colored body. Its back is covered in warts along with one or two warts by its mouth.

Habitat: The Colorado river toad lives in arid to semi arid climates, mostly by streams, ponds, or irrigation ditches. It will dig burrows or be found in rodent holes.

Range: it can be found in the southwestern United states, and down into Northern Mexico.

Natural Diet: A wide variety of insects, worms, spiders, lizards, and will even eat other frogs, toads, and mice.

Zoo Diet: At the zoo the Colorado River Toads are fed crickets, worms, and small mice.

Behavior: This toad is nocturnal and will stay underground during the heat of the day. It has a very toxic hallucinogen that they can excrete from the parotid glands behind its eyes that if ingested can cause nausea and in some cases death.

Reproduction: Mating occurs from May to July. Females will lay up to 8,000 eggs in a pond or stream and they will hatch in 2-12 days into tadpoles. The females will then return to their burrows until the winter is over.

