

| Stage Name | Gosner Stage (G); Gosner, 1960 | <i>M. fissipes</i> Stage (S); Wang et al., 2017 | <i>Xenopus</i> Stage (NF) Nieuwkoop and Faber, 1956 | Trait description | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | Other anurans | <i>Xenopus</i> |
| Limb bud I | 26 | 29 | 46-48 | Appearance of the hindlimb bud | |
| Limb bud II | 27 | 30 | 49 | Hindlimb bud longer, distal outline still circular, length of hind limb=1/2 width | |
| Limb bud III | 28 | 31 | 50 | Length of hind limb= width | |
| Limb bud IV | 29 | 32 | 51 | Length of hind limb buds =3/2 width | |
| Appearance of knee junction | 30 | 32-33 | 52 | Oar-shaped hindlimb bud formation | |
| Oar-shaped limb bud | 31 | 33 | 52 | | |
| Appearance of 4th and 5th toes I | 32 | 34 | 53 | Limb development and toe differentiation | |
| Appearance of 4th and 5th toes II | 33 | 34 | 53 | | |
| Appearance of 3rd toe | 34 | 35 | 54 | | |
| Appearance of 1st and 2nd toes I | 35 | 36 | 54 | | |
| Appearance of 1st and 2nd toes II | 36 | 36 | 54 | | |
| All toes completely separated | 37 | 37 | 55 | Limb growth | |
| Metatarsal tubercle | 38 | 37-39 | 56-57 | | |
| Subarticular tubercles | 39 | 40 | 57 | Fingers stretched out in forelimb atrium | |
| Disappearance of vent tube I | 40 | 40 | 58 | Maximum total length of tadpoles | Forelimb eruption; small intestine at its maximum length, and tadpole at its maximum total length |
| Disappearance of vent tube II | 41 | 41 | 59 | Forelimbs were distinct and covered by transparent pectoral skin, and reached a position above the heart | Forelimb reaching down to the base of hindlimb |
| Emergence of forelimbs | 42 | 42 | 60-61 | Forelimb eruption; head narrowed | The head narrowed; the forelimb at the level of posterior of heart |
| Tail degeneration I | 43 | 42-43 | 62 | Forelimb at the level of the middle of heart; head broader than trunk | |
| Tail degeneration II | 44 | 43 | 63 | Head narrower than trunk, tail still slightly longer than body, forelimb at the level of anterior of heart | |
| Tail degeneration III | 45 | 44 | 64-65 | Tail continued to degenerate into a stub | |
| Complete metamorphosis | 46 | 45 | 66 | Tail resorption is complete; the tadpole became a froglet | |