

Fig. 7.2 General schematics of the birth and death processes captured when the sampling is either (a) before the birth pulse or (b) after the birth pulse. The animals sampled at times t and $t + 1$ are boxed, with N_j representing number of individuals in each stage class j . This example assumes that animals stay in each stage for only one time step, except that those in the last stage can survive and remain in that stage for multiple time steps. Fecundity for each age class (m_j) represents the average number of offspring born to each individual of N_j . The probability of survival through one time step is represented by P_j . To the right of each schematic is the resulting projection matrix and population-size vector. In (a), note that newborns (N_0) are not seen until they have survived through their first year (P_0) to be counted as N_1 at the next sample interval; likewise, individuals in age class 1 (N_1) are just about to become 2 years old, and so on. The next batch of N_0 individuals are born just after sampling. In (b), note that there is an extra column and row in the post-birth-pulse matrix (compared to the case of the pre-birth pulse) because post-birth sampling occurs just after reproduction, making N_0 recognizable as its own class.

we sampled on May 30 (just before the birth pulse), then the youngest age class counted would be the calves born last May 31 that had lived to be counted just as 1 year old. The reproductive contribution for each stage class include not only stage-specific fecundity (m_j ; the average number of females per year per female in stage j) but also the probability of newborns surviving to be counted at the end of their first year (call this P_0). Now, what if instead of

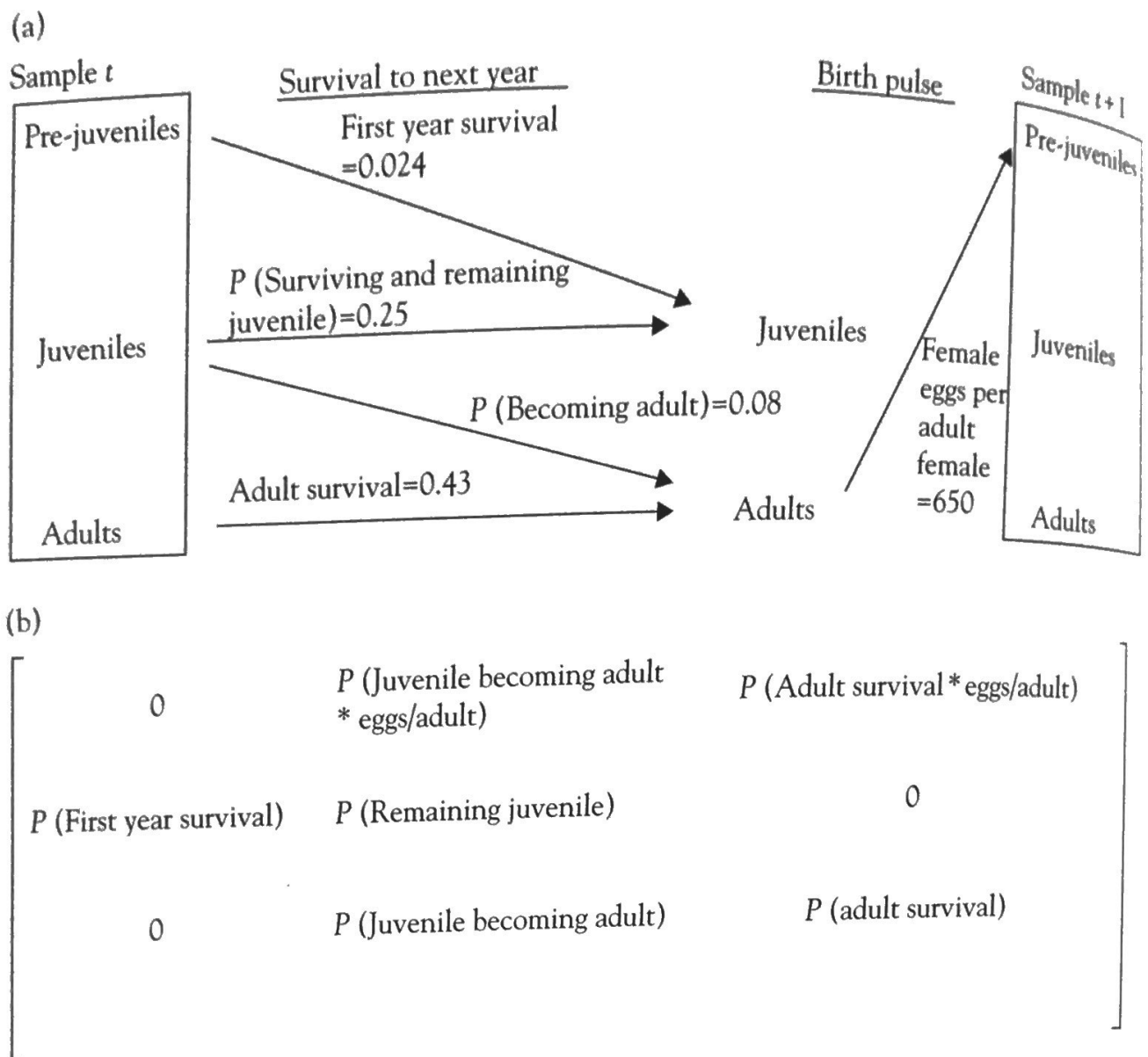


Fig. 7.3 A real-life example of a female-based post-birth-pulse matrix model for the common frog (Fig. 7.1). Female eggs per adult female refers to fecundity (see Box 4.8). (a) A diagrammatic representation of the model; (b) the matrix (try plugging in the values and make sure you get the matrix in Fig. 7.1). Note that the matrix shows reproduction for juveniles (row 1, column 2) as well as adults (row 1, column 3) because a portion of the juveniles transition during the time step to become adults, at which point they reproduce. In general, for post-birth-pulse models for iteroparous species with n reproductive stages there should be $(n+1)$ non-zero elements in row 1.

of a matrix makes biological sense. The number of individuals in the first stage (newborns) next year comes from the reproductive contribution of each stage to the next time step (the top row of the matrix) multiplied by the number of individuals in each stage (the population vector). Likewise, the number of individuals advancing to a different stage or staying in the stage at the next time step are the product of survival (or other possible transitions below the first row) and the number of individuals in that stage.

Stable stage distribution and reproductive value

Matrix-projection methods can start with any number of individuals in different stages, and keep track of the relative number in each stage as well as population growth over time. This feature makes an important tool for many applications, ranging from tracking the possible growth of a translocated population to predicting what