

AMPHIBIOCYSTIDIUM

Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group



INTRODUCTION

Amphibiocystidium is a parasitic organism sometimes referred to as *Dermocystidium*, that infects frogs, toads, newts and salamanders.

There is evidence that some species may be more **susceptible** than others, but **all** amphibians are at risk.

The disease can either be **mild** with few symptoms and **recovery**, or can lead to **death** of the individual.

Infection with *Amphibiocystidium* parasites can cause a variety of symptoms and can even infect the liver, forming **tumour-like** lesions.

The parasite has been found in **North America** and **Europe**, including the **UK** in which it was found in **native** and **introduced** species of newt.

Source: Garden Wildlife Health
Photo Credit: ARG UK



SYMPTOMS

- Nodular skin lesions visible to the naked eye
- Small blisters to large tumour-like lesions, red and ulcerated
- Lesions can be found anywhere on the body - head, tail, legs, cloaca

CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS

- The lifecycle of the parasite and how it is transmitted is unknown
- Infection is thought to be increasing in Europe and the UK
- Implications for conservation unclear and there is a need for more research

Report sightings

Report to Garden Wildlife Health

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org