

CHYTRID FUNGUS

Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group



INTRODUCTION

Chytridiomycosis is a fungal disease caused by the microscopic fungus **Bd** and **Bsal**, commonly referred to as chytrid.

It has caused mass mortalities **worldwide** and has caused some **species extinction**. The wild European fire salamander has seen a **99%** decline in national populations in the Netherlands.

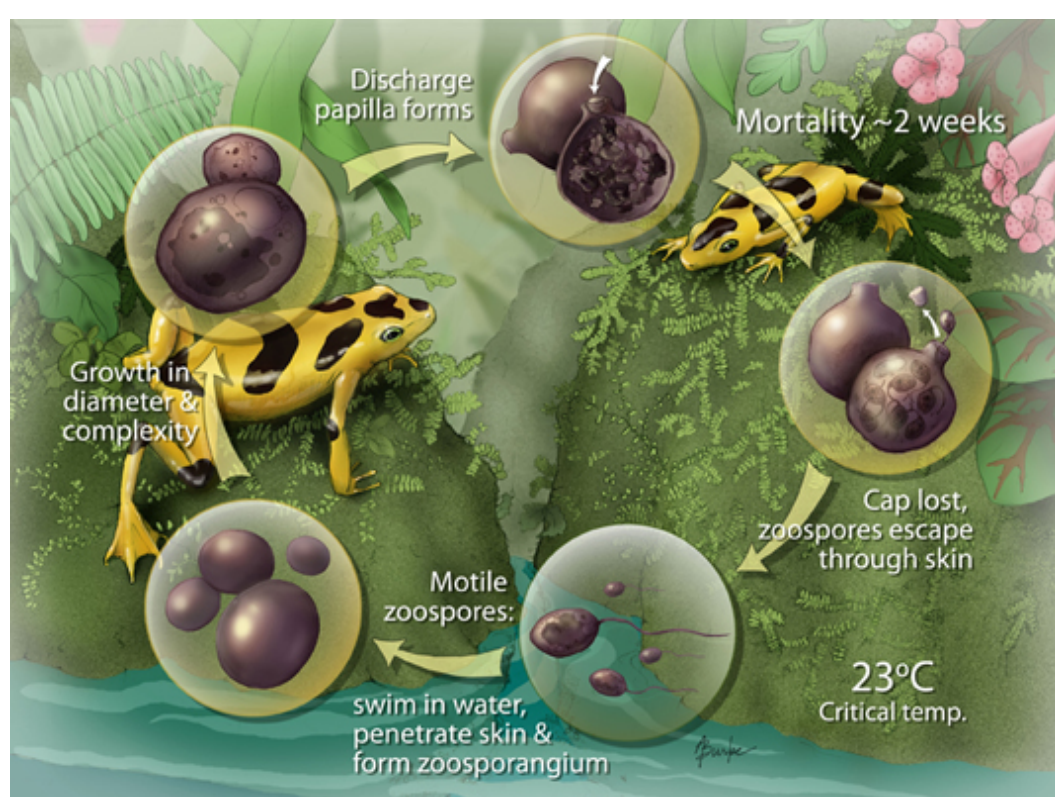
All amphibians are susceptible to the disease, though some appear **tolerant** and have no symptoms.

It is thought that **common** chytrid carriers in the UK are the North American bullfrog, African clawed frog and alpine newts.

Chytrid prohibits the uptake of **sodium** via the skin, which **stops circulation** and the **heart**.

Source: ARC Trust

Photo credit: The World of Frogs



SYMPTOMS

- Reddening of skin
- Excessive shedding of skin
- Skin ulcerations
- Abnormal posture
- Seizures
- Unusual behaviour (nocturnal species active during daylight)
- Listlessness
- Lack of coordination

CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS

- There are massive implications for chytrid worldwide
- The fungus can persist in water and soil, and can be spread by surrounding animals e.g birds etc.
- There is treatment for captive amphibians but not yet for wild
- Limiting the spread in the UK is vital

Report sightings

Report to Garden Wildlife Health

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org