

TOAD FLY INFESTATION

Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group



INTRODUCTION

Toad fly infestations are caused by the toad fly *Lucilia bufonivora* and mostly infects **common toads** *Bufo bufo* in the UK.

The adult toad fly lays eggs on the **toads skin** which then hatch and migrate inside the toad via the **nostrils**.

This migration blocks the **airways** of the individual and the toad eventually dies by suffocation. The larvae then feeds on the toad to complete its **lifecycle**.

Toad fly are an **obligate parasite**, which means in order for the species to complete it's lifecycle it needs to infect the toad. Although infestations in the UK are rare, the toad fly is a **natural parasite**.

Source: ARC Trust

Photo credit: ARC Trust



SYMPTOMS

- 'Chucking noises'
- Enlarged nostrils
- Signs of fly larvae in nostrils (small, white maggots)
- Immobility

TIME OF YEAR

- Seen May - September
- Mostly seen in July and August

CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS

- Not currently thought to be a conservation concern
- No treatments available

Report sightings

Report to Garden Wildlife Health

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org