

Agile Frog *Rana dalmatina*



The Agile Frog is found in the South West of Jersey, Channel Islands. This is the only place it occurs within the British Isles, although it is native to parts of mainland Europe. Its notably long back legs, gives a hint to how it got its name; they can jump farther than other European Frogs - up to 2 meters.



Size – A slim frog with adults growing up to 9cm, snout to vent.

Features – A fairly pointed snout and a dark eye mask with a silver/gold surround of the oval, horizontal pupil. Located closely to the eye is the rather large



eardrum. Body colour ranges in Jersey from buff/yellow to pinkish brown/rust with a pale underside. The back is often marked with black blotches and the legs with black stripes, with an occasional yellow colouration to the groin area. Males and females look similar but the female is slightly larger.

Habitat – In Jersey the surviving Agile Frog population is to be found in the Coastal Heath and Gorse habitats of the South West. The frogs can be found migrating to ponds from February and then seen on land again between April/May-October. Hibernation taking place between November–January/February.

Feeding – An adults diet is made up of beetles, small flies and their larvae and also earthworms. The tadpoles feed on animal matter, detritus and aquatic plants.

Reproduction – Spawning has been known to take place anytime between mid-February to early April. Whilst the male and female are in amplexus, the eggs are deposited underwater in round clumps on twigs, plant stems or amongst underwater vegetation. The development of the tadpoles to hatching seems to be temperature dependent, with metamorphosis taking 2 to 4 months. Froglets can be seen from late May/June.



The Agile Frog is protected by the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000.

In Jersey, the Agile Frog is classified as Locally Critically Endangered.

