

The Amphibians of Jersey

Palmate newt

Lissotriton helveticus



Adult male



Adult female

Size: 9 cm (adults), 3 cm (fully grown larvae).

Appearance: Mottled brown colour. Males (in breeding season) have a ridge along their back rather than a crest. Dark webbed hind feet, and tail ends in filament. May be confused with lizards during their terrestrial phase, when they are brown-orange in colour. Unspotted pink throat.

Eggs: 3 mm diameter, laid singly folded inside of leaves of aquatic plants.

Distribution and habitats: Widespread in Jersey, occurring in semi-natural and urban ponds but poorly recorded.



Terrestrial stage

Western toad / crapaud

Bufo spinosus

Size: up to 9 cm (adults), 3 cm (fully grown tadpoles). Females are bigger than the males.

Appearance: Brown, yellow or greyish in colour with bumpy skin. The head is broad and the nose blunt, with large parotoid (poison) glands behind each eye. The eyes are a reddy-orange. During the breeding season, males have black rough (nuptial) pads on their thumbs. Tadpoles are jet black with a rounded tail tip.

Eggs: Females lay double strings of black spawn which is laid around aquatic vegetation. If frost damaged or covered by algae it can appear cloudy.

Sound: A squeaky croak.

Distribution and habitats: Found across the island in semi-natural and urban environments including garden ponds.



Adult



Juveniles



Agile frog

Rana dalmatina

Adult



Photo: Tim Ransom

Size: Up to 9 cm (adults), 4.5 cm (fully grown tadpoles).

Appearance: Light brown to buff pink in colour with an obvious 'mask' over the eye and dark stripes on its long legs. The sides are often darker than the back and the underneath is cream. Tadpoles are brown with dark spots and a speckled belly.

Eggs: Spawn are laid in small clumps, often anchored to submerged vegetation or branches.

Sound: Calls underwater or at the surface, making a squeaky 'purring' sound.

Distribution and habitats: Restricted to a few coastal heathland sites and gardens in the south-west of the island

Comparing spawn and larvae

Palmate newt



Photo: © ARC & contributors

Photo: © ARC & contributors



Newt

Toad



Photo: John W. Wilkinson

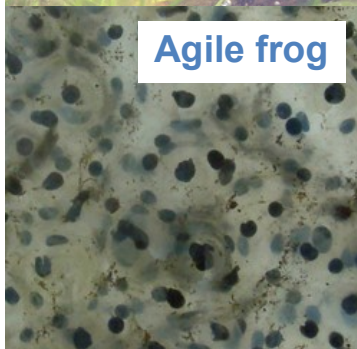
Frog

Toad



Photo: King

Agile frog



Pondwatch...JE