

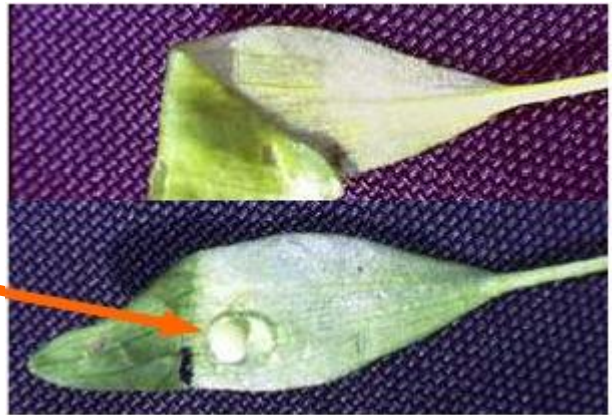
Newt eggs

Newt eggs are usually wrapped, singly, in vegetation. Leaves folded around great crested newt eggs are particularly conspicuous. To identify, unfold leaf. Identification of undeveloped eggs is easiest.



Great crested newt eggs are white, sometimes with a tint of green or orange.

Eggs of smooth and palmate newts cannot be distinguished by eye. Grey or beige.



Newt larvae

Examine well-developed larvae (late April to July, or to August for great crested newts).



Palmate and smooth newt larvae (to 3 cm) indistinguishable in field—but do not have long toes or spotted tail fins of great crested newt larvae.

Young newts usually leave the water in late summer or autumn, although sometimes they remain as larvae over the winter.



Great crested newt larvae (to 5 cm) have long toes and blotches of dark pigmentation on tail fins.

Alpine newt



Male

Female

Adults 8-11 cm. A non-native species restricted to very few sites, but becoming increasingly common. Most likely to be encountered in garden ponds, or ponds near to gardens.

Breeding males can be predominantly blue. Females have a marbled pattern. Bellies are bright orange, without spots (although there may be black spots on the throat of some specimens).

Amphibian Identification



Common frog

Coloration variable, includes brown, yellow and orange. Some females have red markings on lower body and underneath.

Markings also variable, including varying amounts of black spots and stripes.



Usually has dark 'mask' marking behind eye.

Common toad

Adults 5-9 cm. Rough skin. Brown with darker markings. Less commonly, some individuals are very dark, almost black, others are brick red.

Toad spawn is laid in gelatinous strings, wrapped around vegetation. Less obvious than common frog spawn.



Makes small hops rather than jumps of common frog.



Frog



Toad



Tadpoles

On hatching, common frog and toad tadpoles are black. As they develop, common frog tadpoles become mottled with bronze, whereas toad tadpoles remain black.

Common frog and common toad tadpoles generally complete development in the summer, but note that development rates are variable. Some tadpoles may not transform until later in the year, or they may even remain as tadpoles over winter, becoming much larger than normal.

Metamorphs



Young froglets look like smaller versions of the adults.

Newly emerged toadlets are very dark in colour—almost black.



Natterjack toad

Similar in size and appearance to common toad, but with a distinctive pale stripe running along the back. This is a rare species, unlikely to be encountered outside specific dune and heathland habitats.



Green/water frogs

Non-native frogs, including marsh, edible and pool frogs. There is considerable variation in colour and markings within each species, so identification by eye can be difficult. Green frogs breed in late spring/early summer. Males call loudly at this time and sporadically throughout the summer. Calling males inflate a pair of balloon-like vocal sacs, one either side of the head. The calls are a useful way of distinguishing the species (www.alienencounters.org).



Marsh frog

A large frog growing to 13 cm. Variable in coloration and markings. May, or may not, have pale dorsal stripe. Usually some vivid green coloration, but some can be predominantly brown.



Pool and edible frogs

Northern European pool frogs



Edible frog



Midwife toad



A small non-native species, growing up to 5 cm. Rough skin, so potentially mistaken for a small common toad. However, midwives have vertical pupils (horizontal in common toad) and males carry eggs.

Few established populations, which are usually associated with gardens.



Male midwife toad carrying eggs

Smooth newt

Grows to about 10 cm. Both sexes have orange or yellow belly stripe, with rounded black spots. Male has undulating crest running from head to tail tip.



Female



Male

Juveniles live on land.

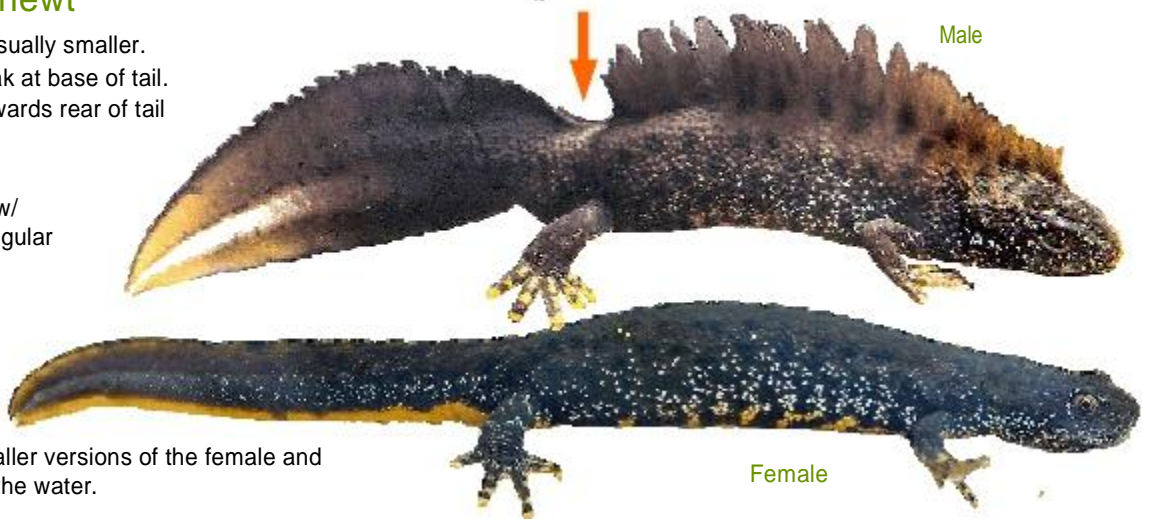


A widespread species which breeds in a variety of water bodies. Often found in garden ponds.

Great crested newt

Grows to 16 cm, but usually smaller. Crest in male has break at base of tail. Silvery-white stripe towards rear of tail conspicuous.

Both sexes have yellow/orange bellies with irregular black spots and rough, granular skins.



Male

Female

Juveniles look like smaller versions of the female and may live on land or in the water.

Strictly protected species, requiring a licence to handle or disturb.

Palmate newt

Grows to 9 cm. Breeding male has ridge running along back, rather than a crest. Dark, webbed hind feet, and tail ends in filament.

Breeding male



Male terrestrial phase



There are two pale coloured nodules on the underside of the hind feet of female palmate newts.



Palmate



Smooth

Throat of palmate newt has no pigment (looks pink). Throat of smooth newt is off-white and usually spotted.

Females look similar to smooth newts.

