

**Consequences of fish introductions on paedomorphic newts
(*Triturus alpestris* and *T. helveticus*)
[POSTER]**

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Fish stocking is largely recognized as a major threat to amphibian populations. Although it acts at a local level, it is widespread at a world scale. Despite this good knowledge, the effect of fish on alternative phenotypes has only been described in a few local studies. Our aim was to report on the loss of intraspecific heterochrony as a loss to diversity in determining the consequences of fish introductions on paedomorphs (morphs retaining gills at the adult stage) of two European species of newts. We surveyed almost all the main known paedomorphic populations of the Alpine (*Triturus alpestris*) and palmate (*T. helveticus*) newts, which all but one initially occupied fishless ponds and lakes in France, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia, Montenegro, and Greece. Exotic fish were found in almost half of the studied aquatic habitats. Introductions involved several ornamental and large predatory species of fish. At all sites, in which fish were introduced, paedomorphs disappeared and metamorphs declined. The largest known populations of newts, including some endemic subspecies, were concerned. If measures are not taken to stop fish stocking, protect paedomorphs as conservation units, and restore natural habitats, all the largest paedomorphic populations may disappear in the near future.

**Release call structure of the neotropical toad *Bufo schneideri*
[POSTER]**

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The release vocalisations of the Cururu Toad *Bufo schneideri* WERNER, 1894 (better known as “*Bufo paracnemis*”) were studied in a population at LV Mansilla in the northern part of the Cordoba province (Argentina). Release calls of 16 individuals were elicited by gently compressing the sides of a male held between thumb and forefinger directly above a microphone (= artificial amplexus), series of about 2 minutes per individual were recorded and subsequently analysed using a MEDAV Spectro 2000 signal analysing system.

Toads were very large with a median SVL of 198 mm (158-211 mm) and a median mass of 950 g (609-1144 g). Release calls consisted of either a single pulse (n = 234 calls) or a pulse group including 2-9 pulses (n = 471). The dominant frequency (312-552 Hz) did not differ significantly between single pulses and pulse groups and did not correlate with SVL. Pulse duration of multi-pulse calls ranged between 9 ms and 12 ms and was considerably shorter than that of single pulse calls with a median duration of 44ms and a range of 9-104 ms. Pulse rate (76-93 pulses/s) slightly increased with the number of pulses per call, but this variable accounted for only about 8% of total variation in pulse rate. Single-pulse and multi-pulse release seem to represent distinct call types, but their specific role in intra- and interspecific acoustic communication remains still to be investigated.



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