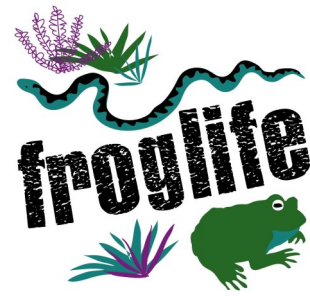


# AFRICAN CLAWED TOAD

## (*Xenopus laevis*)



### Identification:

- Adults up to 13 cm in length.
- Smooth skin that is brown or grey.
- Plump toad with large flattened body.
- Eyes are on top of the head.
- Claws on three inner-toes of hind feet.
- Males usually smaller than females.
- Almost always found in water.
- Circular pupil.



Photo: Brian Gratwicke

### Call:

- Males call under the water.

### Distribution:

- Non-native species.
- Native to Africa.
- Commonly kept as pets and used extensively in UK laboratories. Thought to be one of the species responsible for bringing various amphibian diseases into the UK.

### Ecology:

- Feeds mostly underwater, stirring up silt and mud at the bottom of pools and streams in search of prey.
- Feed on tadpoles and aquatic invertebrates.
- Only leave water if there is a drought, when they burrow into mud.
- One of the few amphibians able to survive in high salinity water.

### Eggs:

Small clumps of eggs deposited on plants, rocks and other underwater surfaces.

N.B. The release of exotic species into the wild is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. Find out more about our education projects and activities at [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)

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