

Alytes obstetricans

Taxonomic Authority: (Laurenti, 1768)

Synonyms:

Region: 10

Common Names:

Common Midwife Toad English
Sapo Partero Común Spanish

Family: Discoglossidae

Order: Anura

Notes on taxonomy:

General Information

Biome

Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species ranges from the northern half of Portugal and Spain (where populations are very fragmented, and there is a small Area of Occupancy within its Extent of Occurrence), through most of France, to southern Belgium, extreme southeastern Netherlands, Luxembourg, western and north-central Germany, and western and northern Switzerland. Populations in coastal Portugal west of Lisbon are extinct. It has been introduced to the UK, with at least one established population. It occurs at elevations ranging from sea level to 2,400m asl. (in the Pyrenees).

Conservation Measures:

The species is listed on Appendix II of the Berne Convention and on Annex IV of the EU Natural Habitats Directive. It is listed in a number of national and sub-national Red Data Books and is protected by national legislation in many of its range states. The species is presumed to occur in a number of protected areas. Further research into the current decline is needed especially into the impacts of disease.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It lives in terrestrial habitats, including temperate forests, semi-arid areas, walls, embankments, and slopes with small stones and sparse vegetation. Aquatic habitats in which the species breeds range from slow moving rivers to stagnant permanent ponds and pools; gravel and clay pits are also used. The larvae of this species frequently hibernate. The species can occur in suitable modified habitat such as traditional agricultural land, and even urban areas (e.g., in Barcelona).

Threats:

General habitat loss, largely to agricultural development (including loss of breeding sites), has contributed to the decline of the species in some areas. Fragmentation of populations may be a problem for the species in Spain and Portugal. Certain populations of the subspecies *Alytes obstetricans pertinax* in protected areas of central Spain have severely declined and disappeared as a result of chytridiomycosis (Bosch et al., 2001; Bosch et al., 2000); a few specimens have recently been found again in this area (M. García-Paris and J.W. Arntzen pers. comm.). Additional mortality of the species through disease (iridovirus) has been recorded in Carris Lake, Peneda-Gerês National Park, Portugal (Soares et al., 2003); the disease may be non-native and have been transferred to the lake by an introduced predatory fish (*Lepomis gibbosus*). Mortality initially attributed to the bacteria *Aeromonas hydrophila* "red-leg disease" has also been reported (Márquez et al. 1995). Predation by *L. gibbosus* and other introduced predatory fish species, such as salmonids, is also a considerable threat to this species.

Species population information:

it is reported to be declining (including local extinctions) across its range, but it is still widespread and common in many areas (e.g., in much of France).

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Belgium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
France	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Germany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luxembourg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Netherlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Switzerland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
United Kingdom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FAO Marine Habitats

Native -
Presence
Confirmed

Native -
Presence
Possible

Extinct

Reintroduced

Introduced

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

Score Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

1.4	Forest - Temperate	1	Broadleaf Forest	1
1.5	Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1	Conifer Boreal Forest	1
3.4	Shrubland - Temperate	1	Conifer Forest	1
5.1	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	1	Coniferous Forest	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	2	Cool Broadleaf Forest	1
5.7	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1	Cool Conifer Forest	1
5.8	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	2	Cool Crops and Towns	2
8.2	Desert - Temperate	2	Cool Mixed Forest	1
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	9	Cool Southern Hemisphere Mixed Forest	1
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	2	Deciduous Broadleaf Wood	1
11.5	Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	2	Evergreen Broadleaf Forests	1
			Grass Crops	9
			Mediterranean Scrub	1
			Mixed Forest	1
			Moist Eucalyptus	1
			Montane Tropical Forest	1
			Rain Green Tropical Forest	1
			Seasonal Tropical Forest	1
			Semi Desert Shrubs	2
			Tropical Degraded Forest	1
			Urban	1
			Woody Savanna	2

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1	Crops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4	Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4.3	Agro-industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.5	Abandonment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Infrastructure development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2	Human settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Invasive alien species (directly affecting the species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Predators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.1	Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Changes in native species dynamics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.5	Pathogens/parasites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Intrinsic factors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.7	Slow growth rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Species-based actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.5	Disease, pathogen, parasite management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:
Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:

Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:

CITES: Not listed

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, tolerance of a broad range of habitats, presumed large population, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing **Date of Assessment:** 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Jaime Bosch, Trevor Beebee, Benedikt Schmidt, Miguel Tejedo, Iñigo Martínez-Solano, Alfredo Salvador, Mario García-París, Er

Notes on Red listing: Further details of the impact of pathogen infections and population declines throughout the species range are needed. If these declines become more serious, it could qualify for listing in a more threatened category. The subspecies *Alytes obstetricans pertinax* in the lowlands of central Spain may be considered to be Vulnerable A2ac as its populations are severely fragmented and are rapidly disappearing.

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