

Triturus helveticus

Taxonomic Authority: (Razoumowsky, 1789)

Synonyms:

Region: 10

Common Names:

Palmate Newt English
Tritón Palmeado Spanish

Order: Caudata

Family: Salamandridae

Notes on taxonomy:

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is restricted to western Europe. It occurs in northern Spain and Portugal (where populations are often very fragmented), much of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, also the extreme western Czech Republic and northern Switzerland. The subspecies *T.h. punctillatus* is known from a single locality, Pozo Negro, in Burgos province, Spain. An isolated population in extreme southeastern France is extinct. This species has an altitudinal range from sea level up to at least 2,400m asl (Pyrenees Mountains).

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is present in lowland marshes, heathlands, moorlands, forests (where it may be very common), pastures and agricultural land. Breeding and larval development takes place in a wide variety of small stagnant waters (including very small and acidic ponds, ditches and ruts), or (rarely) slow-moving waters. The species is generally less abundant in cultivated areas, but it survives well in some anthropogenic habitats such as gardens.

Conservation Measures:

It is listed on Appendix III of the Berne Convention and is protected by national legislation throughout its range. The species is listed in a number of national and sub-national Red Data Books and Lists, and is present in many protected areas.

Threats:

The species is locally threatened by general drainage, pollution and eutrophication of breeding pools, abandonment of traditional farming practices and the introduction of predatory fishes and crayfish (*Procamabrus clarkii*) (and possibly non-native vegetation). Desertification is a threat in southern parts of the range. However, through most of its range, populations are stable and abundant.

Species population information:

The species is very common in suitable habitats over much of its range. It is endangered in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg (Gasc et al., 1997), and uncommon (with a fragmented range) in northern Portugal and declining in parts of Spain (especially the southern populations of Aragón, Castilla and León Provinces and the Ebro River populations of Zaragoza and Tarragona Provinces).

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"/>
Czech Republic	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FAO Marine Habitats

Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
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Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
1.4 Forest - Temperate	1
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
5.1 Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	2

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
Conifer Forest	2
Cool Broadleaf Forest	2
Cool Crops and Towns	2
Deciduous Broadleaf Wood	1
Grass Crops	2

5.2	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	2	Marsh Wetland	1
5.4	Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	1	Mire, Bog, Fen	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	1	Urban	1
5.6	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	2		
5.7	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1		
5.8	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1		
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	2		
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1		
11.3	Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	2		
11.4	Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	1		
11.5	Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	2		
12.1	Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over 8ha)	1		
12.2	Artificial/Aquatic - Ponds (below 8ha)	1		
12.5	Artificial/Aquatic - Excavations (open)	1		
12.9	Artificial/Aquatic - Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches	1		

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2	Human settlement	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	Water pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.2	Domestic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.3	Commercial/Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Natural disasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.1	Drought	<input 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"/>
1.2.1.3	Sub-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"/>
1.2.2.3	Sub-national level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<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"/>
3.5	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 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"/>

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: Stable

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Jan Willem Arntzen, Trevor Beebee, Robert Jehle, Mathieu Denoël, Benedikt Schmidt, Jaime Bosch, Claude Miaud, Miguel Teje

Notes on Red listing: The subspecies *Triturus h. punctillatus* qualifies for listing as Endangered under criterion B2ab(iii,v) as a result of predation by introduced crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) and fishes.

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