

New records of paedomorphic smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) at a site in Cambridgeshire, U.K.

STEVEN J. R. ALLAIN* & LIAM T. SMITH

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Amphibian and Reptile Group (CPARG), U.K.

*Corresponding author Email: steveallain@live.co.uk

The smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) is a common and widespread amphibian species throughout most of its range, including the UK (Beebee & Griffiths, 2000). Whilst surveying for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) at the Orton Brick Pits SSSI/SAC (TL162941) in Cambridgeshire, England during March 2015, a small number of paedomorphic smooth newts were discovered in bottle traps or observed within the target pond by torchlight (Fig. 1). All of the individuals were greater than 7 cm in length, which would classify them as of adult size. Two of the paedomorphic smooth newts were caught from the same pond using bottle traps (on 12th March 2015) whilst the third was seen under torchlight in a neighbouring pond the following evening. The two newts caught in bottle traps were typically coloured females whereas the individual seen in the pond was darker in colour.

This is a new location for smooth newt paedomorphosis in Britain where its occurrence is believed to be relatively rare, although the phenomenon has been recorded elsewhere in the county before (Beebee & Griffiths, 2000).

REFERENCES

Beebee, T. J. C., & Griffiths, R. A. (2000). *Amphibians and Reptiles: A natural history of the British herpetofauna*. The New Naturalist Series.



Figure 1. One of the paedomorphic smooth newts caught whilst bottle trapping for great crested newts at the Orton Brick Pits

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