



American bullfrog

(*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

Originated in North America. Introduced in the Gironde department in 1968 and later in the Sologne area.

Description

- Skin colour varies from olive green to dark brown
- Creamy white underside with yellow throat in adult males
- Length 15 to 20 centimetres from nose to cloaca, 40 cm from nose to end of fully extended hind legs
- Adults vary in weight between 500 and 800 grams
- Large-diameter tympanum:
 - equal in size to the eye in females
 - two times the size of the eye in males
- A fold in the skin runs from the eye, above the tympanum, to the base of the hind legs (no folds across the back)
- The hind feet are palmed
- The characteristic call of the American bullfrog resembles the lowing of a cow.

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats in all types of lentic aquatic environments
- They can travel via rivers with slow currents
- Bullfrogs are active during both the night and the day
- Adults hibernate starting in the middle of the fall, tadpoles spend the winter in water
- Bullfrogs are opportunistic predators, feeding on amphibians, fish, small mammals, reptiles, insects, etc.
- Reproduction occurs between May and August, generally in the form of a single spawn comprising up to 25 000 round, transparent eggs in a gelatinous mass
- The eggs hatch after 4 or 5 days
- In France, the larvae metamorphose after 2 to 3 years and the frogs become sexually mature 2 to 4 years later

Documentation

- Sarat E. (coord.) 2012. Vertébrés exotiques envahissants du bassin de la Loire (hors poissons) : connaissances et expériences de gestion. Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, Plan Loire Grandeur Nature, 128 pp.
- Nepveu C. 2002. Les espèces animales et végétales susceptibles de proliférer dans les milieux aquatiques et subaquatiques - Fiches espèces animales (les espèces exotiques). Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie. 98 pp

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Classification

Order	Anura
Family	Ranidae
Genus	<i>Lithobates</i>
Species	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i> (Shaw, 1802)



1. Male American bullfrog.
2. Rear foot.
3. Spawn.
4. Tadpole.

