

## Dynamik einer angesiedelten Population der Knoblauchkröte (*Pelobates fuscus*) in der Emsaue im Kreis Warendorf (Telgte, NRW)

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### Dynamics of a settled population of the spadefoot toad (*Pelobates fuscus*) in the Ems floodplain in the district of Warendorf (Telgte, NRW)

Spadefoot toads (*Pelobates fuscus*) are „endangered“ in Germany and „threatened with extinction“ in North Rhine-Westphalia. Since 2012 measures to promote the development of spadefoot toads were established in the nature reserve „In den Pöhlen“ in the district Warendorf by improving habitats and establishing new populations from a breeding station. In 2019 and 2021 amphibian protection fences were installed and migrating amphibians were sampled. Size and mass of each spadefoot toad were measured and photos of selected individuals were taken for individual identification. In 2021 automatic cameras were installed to identify potential predation. Results show that in total 137 males and 62 females migrated to the ponds from the 26.2.2021 to the 21.4.2021 while main migration activities concentrated over three weeks and males arrived about 30 days before the females. Females resided between one to 19 days at the ponds and lost mass by 22–33 %. In 2021 the spadefoot toads were larger and heavier than in 2019 and females were larger and heavier than males in both years. There was predation of raccoons and carrion crows at one pond. While in 2019 the migration focussed from end of march to beginning of April, the male found on the 26.2.2021 is one of the most early migratory individual ever found in NRW. Residence time and mass loss is comparable to other studies. Due to the gain in size and mass from the two sampling years, it can be concluded that the population is still in its growing phase. Data of 2019 and 2021 show a later migration of spadefoot toads compared to crested newts and toads. Due to the high number of adult individuals, this spadefoot toad population is one of the most important in NRW.

**Key words:** Amphibia, *Pelobates fuscus*, spawning water, migration, morphometric data.

### Zusammenfassung

Die Knoblauchkröte (*Pelobates fuscus*) gilt in Deutschland als „gefährdet“ und ist in NRW „vom Aussterben bedroht“. Seit 2012 wurden zur Förderung der Knoblauchkröte in NRW im Naturschutzgebiet In den Pöhlen im Kreis Warendorf neben Lebensraum verbessernden Maßnahmen eine Knoblauchkröten-Population durch Aussetzen nachgezüchteter Individuen neu gegründet. In den Jahren 2019 und 2021 wurden Fangzäune aufgestellt, um die an- und abwandernden Amphibien zu erfassen.