

## Wie aktuell ist unser Wissen über die Verbreitung der Amphibien und Reptilien in Deutschland?

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### How up-to-date is our knowledge about the distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Germany?

Information on the distribution of species is the basis for assessing their conservation status and thus also for compiling Red Lists. The current Red Lists of amphibians and reptiles in Germany were published in 2020 and are based on distribution maps that have been available online since 2018. However, the federal state-specific data used in these maps is very heterogeneous. Based on an index of currency, we examine how up-to-date the distribution data shown in the online atlas really is. It turns out that recent data is available for some federal states (especially Saarland, Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein), while for others the data base is outdated, particularly in Rhineland-Palatinate. The data used in the online atlas is not up to date especially for those federal states whose most recent published atlases are 30 years old or older. For federal states whose atlases were published between 2005 and 2019, no clear tendency can be identified with regard to data currency and year of publication. Rhineland-Palatinate is the only federal state in which the currency of species records decreases significantly with the continuity of distribution of the respective species, so species that are supposedly common are the least considered here. In five federal states (Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Lower Saxony/Bremen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland), the currency of the records does not depend on the species' continuity of distribution. The distribution data for the amphibian species European green toad (*Bufo viridis*), yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*) and common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*) as well as for the reptile species common European adder (*Vipera berus*) seem to be particularly outdated. However, it cannot be ruled out that habitat loss is also contributing to this trend, particularly for these species. The lack of up-to-date data on the distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Germany and the considerable heterogeneity of this data across federal states and species makes it difficult to conduct a data-based and thus well-founded assessment of their conservation status. Extensive data collection is therefore urgently needed. Consistent use of the data provided in online reporting platforms should also be encouraged, even if this cannot resolve all deficits. However, the reporting platforms provided should be methodologically state-of-the-art and continuously maintained and updated in order to maintain the intrinsic motivation of the contributing citizen scientists.

**Key words:** Herpetofauna, online atlas, distribution maps, index of currency, federal states, citizen science.