

## Die Abwanderung junger Knoblauchkröten (*Pelobates fuscus*) aus einem niederrheinischen Kleingewässer (Rhein-Kreis Neuss, NRW)

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### The emigration of common spadefoot toadlets (*Pelobates fuscus*) from a small water body in the Lower Rhine area (Rhine County of Neuss, NRW)

In 2013 the only known population of the common spadefoot (*Pelobates fuscus*) in the Rhine County of Neuss contained only a single female and a single male. This pair reproduced successfully in the course of a conservation breeding project. In July 2013, a total of 765 larvae from two cohorts of different origins (to increase the genetic diversity) were released into a small water body, in which spadefoots could be detected in earlier years. Cohort I consisting of 265 individuals, stage 35 to 42, came from the breeding pair of the Rhine County of Neuss, cohort II consisting of 500 individuals, stage 26 to 32, from a conservation breeding of the adjacent Rhine-Erft County. Between July and September the emigration of the toadlets was documented. 444 transforming and transformed toadlets could be captured and measured (weight, snout-vent-length). In addition, 270 individuals were photographed. The migration period lasted from July 16 until September 1 and reached peaks in mid-August until the end of August in relatively warm nights with high relative humidity. About 44 % of the emigrating animals preferred a riparian region, which was characterized by a low slope of the terrain and dense undergrowth. The body mass of the young toads ranged from 2.1 to 6.8 g ( $4.7 \pm 0.77$  g), the snout-vent length varied from 26 to 44 mm ( $36.1 \pm 2.7$ ). Toadlets that migrated early in July (18.7.–31.7.) were significantly lighter and smaller (condition index  $91.84 \pm 17.38$ ; min. 71.24, max. 153.62;  $n = 38$ ) than the later migrating specimens ( $102.04 \pm 19.82$ ; min. 47.88, max. 173.95;  $n = 406$ ).

**Key words:** Amphibia, *Pelobates fuscus*, reinforcement, morphometry of toadlets, migration.

### Zusammenfassung

Die einzige bekannte Population der Knoblauchkröte (*Pelobates fuscus*) im Rhein-Kreis Neuss umfasste 2013 nur ein einziges Weibchen und ein Männchen. Diese wurden im Rahmen einer Erhaltungszucht zur Fortpflanzung gebracht. Im Juli 2013 wurden insgesamt 765 Larven aus zwei Kohorten unterschiedlicher Herkunft zur Erhöhung der genetischen Diversität in ein Kleingewässer ausgesetzt, in dem in früheren Jahren Knoblauchkröten nachgewiesen worden waren. Kohorte I bestand aus 265 Larven des Stadiums 35–42 und stammte aus dem Nachwuchs des Paares aus dem