

**TADPOLES AS BIO-INDICATORS OF STREAM QUALITY:
A BASELINE STUDY**

by

A CHANNING

**Department of Biochemistry
University of the Western Cape
Private Bag X17
Bellville, 7535, South Africa**

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Executive Summary

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Project Leader: Professor A. Channing

BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

This project deals with monitoring water quality using tadpoles. Tadpoles are naturally present in almost all drainages, and provide a low-cost alternative to chemical analyses for routine surveys and monitoring. Local communities should be able to use this approach as a first step in quality control of natural streams.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the research are:

- 1) To determine the diversity of tadpoles in the major catchments in South Africa.
- 2) To provide a user-friendly method of identification of tadpoles.
- 3) To place tadpole collections in a major museum, from which working reference collections can be drawn.
- 5) To determine the sensitivities of certain tadpoles to pollutants like heavy metals and agricultural chemicals.

ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The objectives as set out above have been met as follows:

- 1) The detailed distribution maps to 36 species have been compiled and the seasonality of the 36 species has been determined
- 2) A well-illustrated identification key is available
- 4) The tadpole collection will be placed in the Port Elizabeth Museum
- 5) The sensitivity of platanna tadpoles was determined to nine important agricultural chemicals, using the well-established FETAX procedure.

This study shows that tadpoles can be easily identified, and that they are naturally available in most drainages.

The use of tadpoles as clean water indicators should be emphasized both to the professional and to local communities and schools.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A total of 36 species of tadpoles occur in streams and drainages.

The list includes 2 species of *Afrivalus* (spiny reed frogs), 4 species of *Bufo* (toads), 2 species of *Cacosternum* (dainty frogs), 1 species of *Capensibufo* (mountain toad), 6 species of *Heleophryne* (ghost frogs), 2 species of *Hyperolius* (reed frogs), 1 species of *Natalobatrachus* (Boneberg's frog), 1 species of *Phrynobatrachus* (puddle frog), 1 species of *Poyntonia* (montane marsh frog), 1 species of *Ptychadena* (grass frog), 5 species of *Rana* (river frogs), 5 species of *Strongylopus* (stream frogs), 3 species of *Tomopterna* (sand frogs), 2 species of *Xenopus* (platannas).

There are representatives in permanent streams in the wet areas, and in temporary streams in the drier areas. Essentially, tadpoles are found in streams during the rainy season, when pollutants are entering the water.

The sensitivity of platanna tadpoles was determined using the standard FETAX procedure, to the following pesticides: *Bacillus thuringiensis* (insecticide), Chlorothalonil (fungicide), Deltamethrin (pyrethroid), Dichlorvos (organophosphorus insecticide), Fenthion (organophosphorus insecticide), Imidacloprid (systemic insecticide), Isazofos (organophosphorus insecticide), Mancozeb (fungicide), and Simazine (herbicide).

Tadpole sensitivity

Pesticide	LC50 (mg/l)	EC50 (mg/l)
Isazophos	724	0.25
Imidacloprid	17.4	10
Dichlorvos	39.4	0,5
Chlorothalinil	0,09	0,02
Mancozeb	3.08	0,03
Bacillus t.	163.2	0.02
Deltamethrin	0.19	0.006
Fenthion	2.61	0.002

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This baseline study has shown that the tadpole approach to monitoring water is both practical and economical. Further research should include:

- 1) A long term study, using caged tadpoles at selected sites along streams that are recognized as high-risk. There are streams draining agricultural areas in the Western Cape that would be ideal test sites.
- 2) Determination of tadpole sensitivity to other selected agrichemicals. This would allow an evaluation of pesticides that are actually used in an area. This would tie in with recommendation (1).

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"Tadpoles as bioindicators of stream quality: a baseline study"

The Steering Committee responsible for this project consisted of the following persons:

Dr S. A. Mitchell	Water Research Commission (Chair)
Mr M. E. Mosia	Water Research Commission (Secretary)
Mr H. Braack	National Parks Board
Ms D. R. Drinkrow	South African Museum
Dr L. H. Du Preez	University of the Free State
Dr P. Goetsch	Rhodes University, IWR
Prof N. I. Passmore	University of the Witwatersrand
Prof R. Christie	University of the Western Cape
Dr L. Minter	University of the North
Mr D. S. v d Merwe	Water Research Commission
Mr S. Jooste	Department of Water Affairs

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TERMINOLOGY

Some ecotoxicology terminology

- EC₅₀ (malformation) - The median effective concentration
 MCPA - 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxy acetic acid
 NOAEL - No observed adverse effect level
 NOEC - No observed effect concentration
 TI - The teratogenic index where $TI = LC_{50}/EC_{50}$
 LC₅₀ - The concentration of pollutant at which half of the organisms are killed

Taxonomy

Amphibian taxonomy has become stabilized over the last 30 years, due initially to the work of Poynton (1964). Since that date there has been ongoing discovery of new species, and the realization that many cryptic species have been confused. In order to keep this report as useful as possible, a list is given of the current names (Frost 1985) of the species reported on here, plus older synonyms. One of the problems with southern African frog taxonomy has been the difficulty of rationalizing the taxonomy described separately for west Africa, East Africa, and southern Africa. Dubois (1992) suggested some solutions to this problem, by proposing new generic groupings. His proposals are included in the list that follows, as they are certain to be utilized in future.

Table 1 Current and alternative species names

Current binomial	Synonyms	Dubois' proposals
<i>Afrixalus fornasinii</i>		
<i>Afrixalus spinifrons</i>	<i>Afrixalus bracycnemis</i>	
<i>Bufo garipeensis</i>		
<i>Bufo gutturalis</i>	<i>Bufo regularis</i>	
<i>Bufo maculatus</i>	<i>Bufo pusillus</i>	
<i>Bufo rangeri</i>		
<i>Cacosternum namaquense</i>		
<i>Cacosternum nanum</i>		
<i>Capensibufo tradouwi</i>	<i>Bufo rosei</i> , <i>Bufo tradouwi</i>	
<i>Heleophryne hewitti</i>		

Current binomial	Synonyms	Dubois' proposals
<i>Heleophryne natalensis</i>		
<i>Heleophryne orientalis</i>	<i>Heleophryne purcelli</i>	
<i>Heleophryne purcelli</i>		
<i>Heleophryne regis</i>		
<i>Heleophryne rosei</i>		
<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>		
<i>Hyperolius semidiscus</i>		
<i>Natalobatrachus bonebergi</i>		
<i>Phrynobatrachus natalensis</i>		
<i>Poyntonia paludicola</i>		
<i>Ptychadena mossambica</i>		
<i>Rana angolensis</i>		<i>Afrana angolensis</i>
<i>Rana dracomontana</i>		<i>Afrana dracomontana</i>
<i>Rana fuscigula</i>		<i>Afrana fuscigula</i>
<i>Rana vertebralis</i>		<i>Amietia vertebralis</i>
<i>Strongylopus fasciatus</i>	<i>Rana fasciata</i>	
<i>Strongylopus grayii</i>	<i>Rana grayii</i>	
<i>Strongylopus hymenopus</i>	<i>Rana hymenopus</i>	
<i>Strongylopus springbokensis</i>		
<i>Strongylopus wageri</i>	<i>Rana wageri</i>	
<i>Tomopterna cryptotis</i>	<i>Pyxicephalus cryptotis</i>	
<i>Tomopterna delalandii</i>	<i>Pyxicephalus delalandii</i>	
<i>Tomopterna marmorata</i>	<i>Pyxicephalus marmoratus</i>	
<i>Xenopus laevis</i>		
<i>Xenopus muelleri</i>		

Terminology used in the identification key to stream dwelling tadpoles

Beaks	Robust keratinized structures used for cutting food (also called rostrodonts)
Countershading	A tail that is darker above, and lighter below
Elygium	An outgrowth of the pupil in high altitude species that protects the eye from sunlight
Oral papillae	Small sensory outgrowths that surround the mouth. They occur in one or more rows
Papilla gap	A distinct break in a row of papillae, that may occur on the upper or lower rows of papillae.
Tail muscle	The muscular part of the tail to which the upper and lower fins are attached.
Teeth	Small, dark, complex scraping structures that usually occur in rows above and below the mouth (also called keratodonts)
Tubercle	A small wart-like bump on the skin
Vent	The end of the gut, usually positioned on a short tube at the base of the tail

1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa is not a water-rich country. In order for optimum use to be made of a scarce resource, care has to be taken that water sources are not contaminated, for example with agrichemicals. Contaminated rivers could have a negative effect on crops irrigated from the source, on humans utilizing the source for domestic purposes, and on the broader ecosystem.

Biomonitoring is the use of living organisms to indicate contamination. Laboratory analyses are expensive and sampling is by definition not a continuous process. The use of aquatic organisms has the advantages that they are permanent or long term residents, and can be monitored quickly and economically. Although invertebrates are widely used as biomonitors, tadpoles have the potential to become important organisms in this area. Frogs play a major role in natural pest control, and are an important link in the food chain. The tadpoles are present in large numbers when streams are flowing after the rains, and are therefore key organisms for monitoring run-off and spray drift from aerial applications of pesticides.

Tadpoles have the potential to be useful as part of a low-tech monitoring strategy. If tadpoles cease to be present in streams they have always inhabited, this should be regarded as an early warning of pollution. Tadpoles are sensitive to many pollutants, and are an ideal organism for monitoring studies.

The aims of the present project are:

1) To determine the diversity of tadpoles in the major catchments in South Africa

This was determined by sampling in the field, and by reference to herpetological collections in some of the major museums worldwide.

2) To provide a user-friendly method of identification of tadpoles

An illustrated identification key is presented, that is easy to use.

3) *To place a tadpole collection in a major museum*

A sample of tadpoles will be placed in the Port Elizabeth Museum.

4) *To determine sensitivities of certain tadpoles to pollutants like heavy metals and agricultural chemicals*

A series of laboratory experiments using the common platanna, and making use of the internationally accepted FETAX procedure, was adopted. A number of agrichemicals were tested.

The list of catchments is taken from O'Keefe (1985): For the purposes of this study, the following classification of drainages was used: Limpopo, Incomati, Gariep/Vaal, Tugela, Great Fish, Gamtoos, Keurbooms, Goukamma, Gourits, Breë, Berg and the Olifants.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews only recent literature. The field is large, and new publications may exceed 100 per week. I have further confined the review to pertinent areas that have a bearing on this project.

2.1. Tadpole Identification

Southern African tadpoles are still not completely known. The first comprehensive synthesis was by Van Dijk (1966), who provided characters, keys and illustrations to many tadpoles. Other descriptions of African tadpoles, and keys include the work of Van Dijk (1972), Amiet & Schiøtz (1974), Channing (1986), Channing & Boycott (1989), and Lambiris (1987, 1989).

2.2. Pesticides and river systems

Globally, there is a relationship between socioeconomic indices and the accumulation of hydrocarbons in vegetation (Calamari et al 1995), with the richer countries producing more waste. Many pesticides find their way into near-surface aquifers (Kolpin et al 1996, Southwick et al 1995, Tasli et al 1996). Proper drainage of the soil can reduce the amount of herbicide loss as runoff by up to 50% (Bengtson et al 1995). Tillage also affects the movement of

herbicide into groundwater (Smith et al 1995). Sources of pollution can affect both freshwater and marine sources. Refinery effluent has been shown to affect both marine and freshwater species (Bleckman et al 1995).

MCPA residues left in developing forest after spraying for weeds are at detectable and significant levels (Eronen et al 1979). The ecotoxicology of dioxins and related compounds has been reviewed by Grimwood & Dobbs (1995).

Once pesticides get into South African rivers, they can be effective for up to 20 km from the source (for *Bacillus thuringiensis*) and up to 50 km for the organophosphate temephos (Palmer et al 1996). Palmer & Palmer (1995) tested insecticides in the Orange river, and concluded that doses of 1.2-2.4 mg/l of temephos could be considered safe, provided that the recommended dosages are adhered to, and that certain sections of the river are left untreated as refugia for sensitive taxa. This will be discussed further below.

Finches are a major pest in South Africa, and Roux et al (1995) report on the effect of using fenthion to control finches on water quality.

Dams can have a beneficial effect in polluted river systems, by improving the quality of water downstream (Palmer & O'Keeffe 1990)

2.3. Invertebrate sensitivity

Studies of the sensitivities of invertebrates to pollutants form a large body of literature. The following brief paragraph serves only as an introduction to this field, and is not intended as a representative survey.

Aquatic invertebrates are particularly sensitive to organic and other compounds leaching into the water (Assmuth et al 1995). Fluoride is an example of a long term pollutant affecting invertebrates (Camargo & Lapoint 1995). Molluscs accumulate radionuclides (Fransevitch et al 1995). Metal salts have been implicated in restricting the growth of ciliate populations (Janssen et al 1995). The herbicide hexazinone negatively affects stream invertebrates (Kreutzwasser et al 1995), and groundwater

pollution is known to change the composition of invertebrate communities (Notenboom et al 1995).

2.4. Fish sensitivity

Fish are common in most drainages, and provide some clues as to expected sensitivity of tadpoles to pesticides. A common pollutant is nitrite derived from fertilizer. Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) have an LC₅₀ of 2.5 mg/l. (Alvarez & Espina 1994), while juveniles are more sensitive, with an LC₅₀ of 0.25 mg/l (Alvarez & Espina 1995). Fish are generally more sensitive at higher temperatures and pH to the common herbicide Roundup (Bidwell & Gorrie 1995). Different life stages of zebrafish show different acute and long term effects when exposed to mixtures of pesticides (Ensenbach & Nagel 1995). Minnows have, however, been shown to become more tolerant of fluoranthene during a laboratory study (Diamond et al 1995a, 1995b, 1995c). The effect of insecticide on young trout is greatly enhanced if combined with a second pesticide (Paul & Simonin 1995). Combinations of herbicides like 2,4-D and atrazine with insecticide increase the toxicity of the insecticide (Kao et al 1995).

2.5. Pesticides and tadpoles

The carbamate insecticide ZZ-aphox causes structural changes to many organs of tadpoles kept at 20-140 mg/l for 9 weeks (Honrubia et al 1993). Insecticides like ZZ-aphox and folidol cause skeletal malformations in tadpoles (Alvarez et al 1995). Even herbicides like MCPA have a deleterious effect on development (Bernadini et al 1996).

It has been shown that the carrier in Roundup, a widely used herbicide, is more harmful than the glyphosate active ingredient (Bidwell & Gorrie 1995).

Clearly, active ingredients and carriers need to be tested separately. The fungicide TPT decreases the swimming and feeding times of tadpoles, resulting in small size and longer times to metamorphosis (Semlitsch et al 1995).

Tadpoles have been shown to be sensitive to 8 ppm of the insecticide fenthion, and to 2.4 mg/l of the herbicide triclopyr (Berrill et al 1994). Even short term exposure (24 h) to fenthion

can result in tadpole paralysis. This insecticide has a natural half-life of 24-48 h, but even at low concentrations of 2.5 mg/l, the 24 h exposures can compromise the tadpole by increasing the risk of predation while it is paralysed (Berrill et al 1995). *Bufo* tadpoles show interrupted development when exposed to 47.3 mg/l of malathion, but they show no observable effects at 0.47 mg/l (De Llamas et al 1985).

Rana tadpoles show a decreased activity in low concentrations of the synthetic pyrethroid esfenvalerate, down to 1.3 mg/l, at which concentration the 96 h LC₅₀ was 7.29 mg/l. Higher temperatures increase the effects (Materna et al 1995). Dieldrin has an LC₅₀ (96 h) of 40.4-49.5 mg/l for *Xenopus laevis* but 8.7-30.3 mg/l. for *Rana catesbeiana* and 71.3 mg/l for *Rana pipiens* (Schuytema et al 1991). Guthion has a 96 h LC₅₀ of 2.94 mg/l for *Xenopus laevis* (Schuytema et al 1995).

The synergistic action of pairs of chemicals can be considerably more severe than either alone. Future work needs to examine pairs of agrichemicals that are in use in the same watershed.

Two glycoalkaloids used together show synergistic activity on developmental toxicity in *Xenopus* embryos (Rayburn et al 1995). Tadpoles of *Xenopus laevis* can survive 2 mg/l of the fungicide nabam, and 1 mg/l of the herbicide diquat with no harmful effects. But if the tadpoles are placed in the two together, deleterious changes are recorded (Anderson & Prahlad 1976).

Xenopus laevis tadpoles, exposed to 1, 2, and 10 mg/l atrazine, showed delayed development, and reduced body weight, while exposure to 0,1 and 0,025 mg/l of nonylphenol increased the number of females. It has been suggested that delayed development, low body weight and skewed sex ratio imply poor recruitment for a threatened amphibian species (Blandin & Ramsdell 1995). Long term and short term exposure to lead causes teratogenesis in *Xenopus laevis* (Sobotka & Rahwan 1995). Nitrites from ammonium nitrite fertilizer are toxic to tadpoles . The LC₅₀ (96 h) is 13.9-39.3 mg/l. These values are frequently exceeded in agricultural areas around the globe (Hecnar 1995).

Frogs are recognized as important indicators of the health of aquatic systems (Boyer & Grue 1995, Bunn 1995). Toxicants can affect frog populations by 1) affecting disease susceptibility, 2) retarding growth, 3) affecting escape behaviour, 4) affecting reproductive development, and 5) by directly increasing mortality (Carey & Bryant 1995). A comparative toxicity data base for amphibians has been suggested as a means of assessing toxicity risks (Linder et al 1990).

Tadpoles can respond to pollution by changes in their erythrocytes (Chen & Xia 1995).

Caged tadpoles of *Rana temporaria* have been used to monitor pesticide run-off or spray drift. They show mortality, deformities, reduced rates of metamorphosis and reduced growth (Cooke, 1981).

Tadpoles and eggs have also been transplanted to ponds as an experimental monitoring procedure (Freda & McDonald 1993).

In the Western Cape, naturally occurring acidic blackwater is toxic to *Xenopus laevis* tadpoles, but is tolerated by *Xenopus gilli*. Bog water has been shown to be toxic to other tadpoles (Saber & Dunson 1995).

Different pollutants affect different systems in tadpoles. The summary above shows that red blood cell number, neuronal activity, cell division, fertilization, and a disruption in the normal biochemical pathways that lead to growth, are some of the various effects caused by different substances.

Mercuric chloride affects both fertilization and larval development in the river frog *Rana heckscheri* (Punzo 1993).

Xenopus laevis tadpoles are considered a pest in fish farms, and chemical control has been proposed (Theron et al 1992).

Detergents have even been shown to be affecting tadpoles at a site in Russia (Trubetskaya 1994).

Long-term changes in mountain stream frog communities in the mountains of Brazil are attributed to environmental deterioration (Weygoldt 1989).

2.6. Accumulation of pesticides

Chlordane has been shown to accumulate in catfish through the food chain (Murphy & Gooch 1995). Organochlorine pollutants that accumulate in fish are related to the size of the animal. Larger fish accumulate relatively more pesticide (Abd-Allah 1994). Heavy metal pollution is influenced by the presence of humic substances and water hardness (Panttinen et al 1995). Tadpoles have been used to assay for metal pollution, as they accumulate metals (Sparling & Lowe 1996).

Despite an awareness of environmental pollution, pesticides are still accumulating in the top predators like the birds of prey in Africa (Crick 1990). It is known that organochlorine pollution reduces the success of breeding in cormorants (Dirksen et al 1995). In Lake Michigan on the other hand, PCBs are approaching stable concentrations in fish (Stow et al 1995) suggesting that the input of PCBs is not increasing. The river Seine has fish contaminated by PCB, pesticides, and heavy metals (Chevreuil et al 1995).

The breakdown of MCPA, (2-methyl-4-phenoxy acetic acid) a common herbicide, has been examined by Bernadini et al (1995). Photolysis is an important agent for degradation (Bourgine et al 1995).

2.7. Atrazine - a major concern

Atrazine and related compounds make up a significant percentage, around 12%, of pesticide sales in the USA (Arnold et al 1995). It is recognized as a hazard to the environment. Atrazine moves through soil (Beck et al 1995) and finds its way into streams and lakes (Bleeker et al 1995, Ng et al 1995). The maximum allowable atrazine concentration for aquatic life in Quebec is 2 mg/l (Laroche & Gallichand 1995).

Atrazine affects the kidney of rainbow trout, even at very low concentrations (Oulmi et al 1995), and affects the ability of crab blood to carry oxygen (Prasad et al 1995).

Work is being done on the natural mechanisms in the soil that trap and degrade atrazine (Anderson & Coats 1995, Entry et al 1995, Mirgain et al 1995, Ro & Chung 1995, Rocha 1995). Natural wetlands are able to cope with a certain amount of atrazine (Chung

et al 1996). Much of this breakdown is associated with grasslands (De Prado et al 1995). Increased microbial activity, produced by the addition of sewerage sludge, (Barriuso et al 1995) or dairy manure (Entry & Emmingham 1995) helps in the degradation of atrazine. On the other hand, effluent may increase the rate of transport of atrazine into the water (Graber et al 1995), and salinity affects the loss of atrazine from a water body (Hall et al 1995). The gene responsible for the dechlorination of atrazine in *Pseudomonas* has been cloned (DeSouza 1995). The pollution of water is seasonal (as expected) in parts of Croatia (Gojmerac et al 1996). Even marine phytoplankton is affected (Bester et al 1995).

Atrazine has been shown to be volatile (Foster et al 1995), and this volatility is influenced by surface litter (Gish et al 1995). Atrazine is particularly harmful when metals like copper are also present (Gustavson & Wangberg 1995).

Related compounds like simazine may be more or less harmful in different applications, and care needs to be taken to ensure that related alternative active ingredients are recognized when field trials are carried out.

2.8. FETAX

The FETAX procedure (Frog Embryo Teratogenesis Assay - *Xenopus*) has been positively evaluated as a short-term test for developmental effects (Sabourin & Faulk 1987).

A number of biological assays have been developed for organic compounds in water (Guzella & Mingazzini 1994). The types of malformations and effects that have been observed are detailed by Bantle et al (1991). The natural reproductive cycle of *Xenopus* has been examined by Berk (1938). Fetax has been successfully used for assessing pesticide mixtures in the environment (Dawson & Wilke 1991).

Although most tests are of short duration, it has been suggested that long-term experiments, covering many generations, would be useful (Horne 1995). A comparison between fixed-dose procedures and conventional up-and-down LD₅₀ has been discussed by Lipnick et al (1995). The results of toxicity tests like these can be used as input to determine the norms for deriving national guidelines (MacKay et al 1995).

2.9. Other tests

Water quality can be biomonitored using a variety of techniques. The standard literature is not reviewed here. A Biotic Index has been suggested using assemblages of macroinvertebrates, for which sensitivity data is available (Chessman 1995). This approach might also be useful in tadpole-based studies. Hugueny et al (1996) discussed the use of an IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity) which considers factors such as the number of species, the number of intolerant species, the number of species in different taxonomic groups, the percentage of individuals from dominant species, especially resistant species, the number of individuals, the percentage of hybrids, and the percentage of anomalies or diseased individuals.

Developmental toxicity is widely used to measure pollutants (Narotzky & Kavlock 1995).

Population genetics has been suggested as a water quality indicator (Fore et al 1995, Gillespie & Guttman 1993). If allozyme frequencies shift significantly there is a potential loss of individuals with sensitive genotypes. This will reduce variability and make the remaining individuals more susceptible to subsequent stress (Guttman 1994).

Another approach is to simulate a stream ecosystem in the laboratory, and to use this system to determine community responses to pesticides (Schmitz & Hagel 1995, Gruener & Watzin 1996, Sparling et al 1995, Van den Brink et al 1995). A similar approach has also been applied in an outdoor situation (Juttner et al 1995).

Rapid enzymatic tests are described by Burbank & Snell (1994). An enzyme-based assay has been suggested as a rapid toxicity test in invertebrates (Moffat & Snell 1995). Blood enzyme activity is already used to test for lead pollution in fish (Nakagawa et al 1995). Other rapid assessment approaches using macroinvertebrates have been proposed (Rech et al 1995), and rapid tests compared with standard tests by Toussaint et al (1995).

Behavioural changes are a useful indicator of toxicity (Moser et al 1995). Fish behaviour, for example, has been used as an indicator of toxicity (Lorenz et al 1995).

2.10. Present research

The literature review indicates that biomonitoring is a widely used component of ecosystem management. Tadpoles are present in drainages during the rainy season, when run-off and spray drift can be expected to contaminate streams and rivers. There are many different ways to assay streams. Invertebrates, particularly insect larvae, are widely used, along with commercially important fish like trout. Tadpoles produce results which have the potential to extrapolate easily to other terrestrial vertebrates. A number of different testing procedures have been developed, but the FETAX system has been approved by the American Society for Testing Materials, and is used world-wide. The FETAX test is based on the common South African platanna, *Xenopus laevis*. This means that the results obtained by FETAX anywhere in the world are directly applicable to local natural situations. Although any tadpoles present in the water bodies can be used, it was decided to use only *Xenopus* for this base-line study, to be able to compare the results with other studies.

3. DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY OF TADPOLES

3.1. Methods

3.1.1. Distribution

The drainage systems that were recognized are indicated in figure 1.

This is based on a CSIR publication (O'Keeffe 1985), that was the result of a conference on the conservation status of South African rivers.

The drainage areas recognized are not equally sized, but represent natural distribution areas for amphibians. No attempt has been made to relate frog distribution to the size of the catchment.

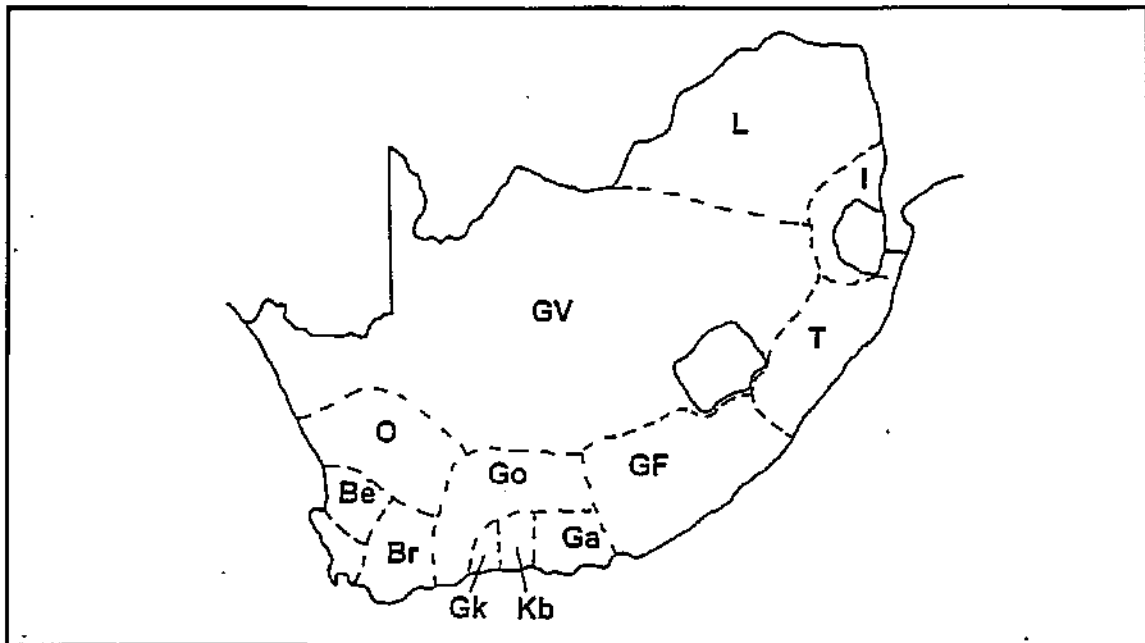


Figure 1. Map of the drainage systems used in this study. L - Limpopo, GV - Gariep/Vaal, I - Incomati, T - Tugela, GF - Great Fish, Ga - Gamtoos, Kb - Keurbooms, Gk - Goukamma, Go - Gourits, Br - Breë, Be - Berg, O - Olifants.

Field trips were made to the major drainage systems in order to confirm the presence of tadpoles. These trips took place during 18-20 August 1995, 16-30 October 1995, 12-22 December 1995, 11-23 January 96, 1-9 April 96, 3-10 May 1996, 2-18 July 1996, 17-23 September 1996, 4-11 November 1996, 21-29 February 1996, 19-25 March 1997, 26-28 April 1997.

Tadpoles were preserved in 10% formalin, and will be deposited in the Port Elizabeth Museum.

In addition, museum records from the major collections in South Africa, Europe and the United States were used to compile the distribution records. The distributions are presented as symbols covering one degree longitude by one degree latitude.

3.1.2. Availability

The availability of tadpoles was compiled from this study, from published literature, and from field notes.

3.2. Tadpole diversity in major drainages

3.2.1. Distribution

The following distribution maps are arranged alphabetically.

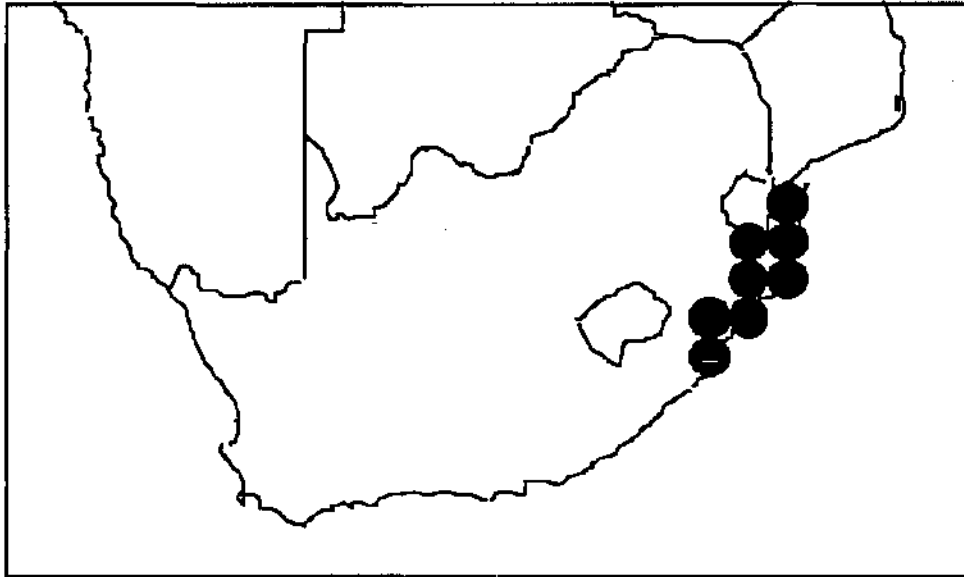


Fig 2. The distribution of *Afrixalus fornasinii*

This species has tadpoles in lowland streams and rivers. Often the tadpoles are found in shallow water amongst emergent vegetation.

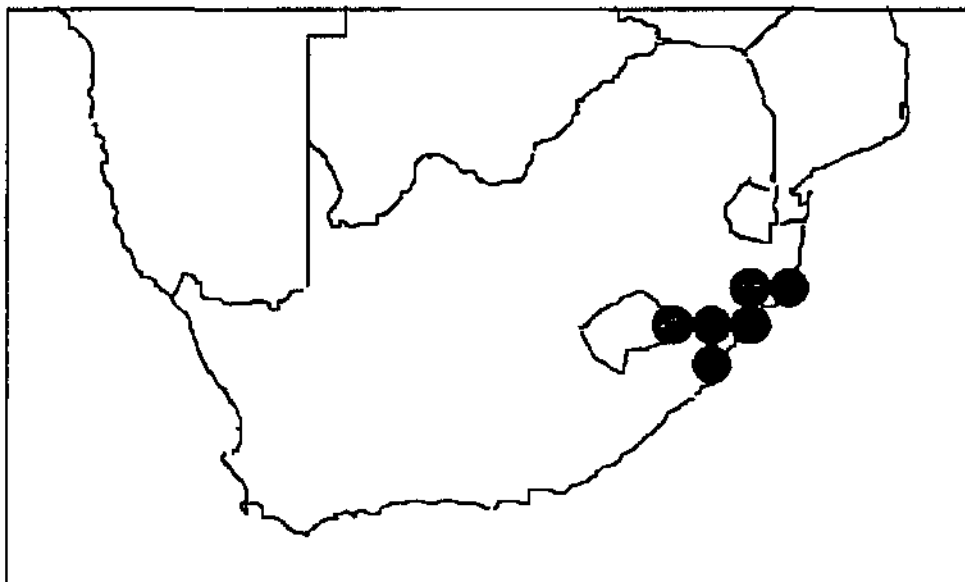


Fig 3. The distribution of *Afrixalus spinifrons*

The tadpoles are found in slow flowing streams amongst vegetation

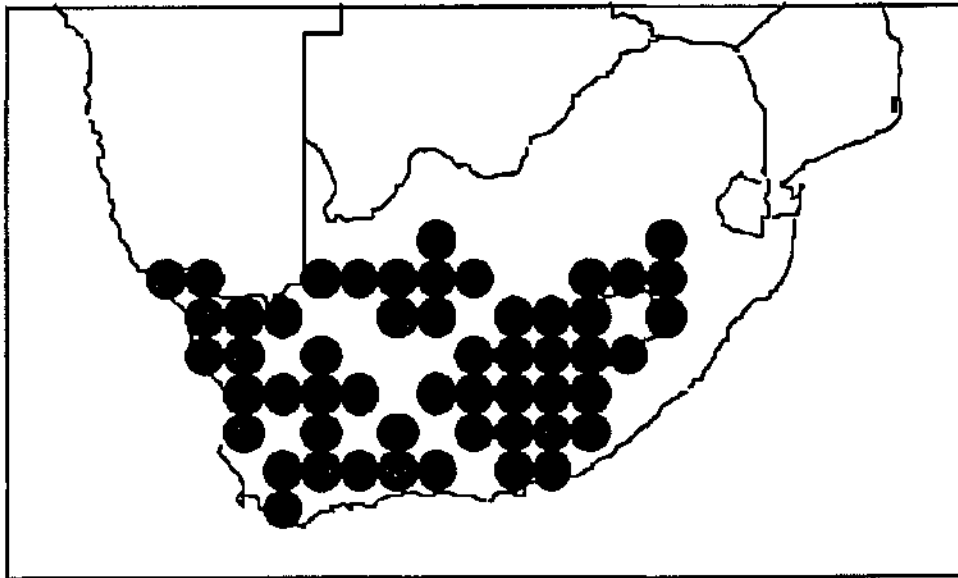


Fig 4. The distribution of *Bufo gariepensis*

This widespread species has tadpoles which can be found in small and large streams. Typically the water is shallow and not well vegetated.

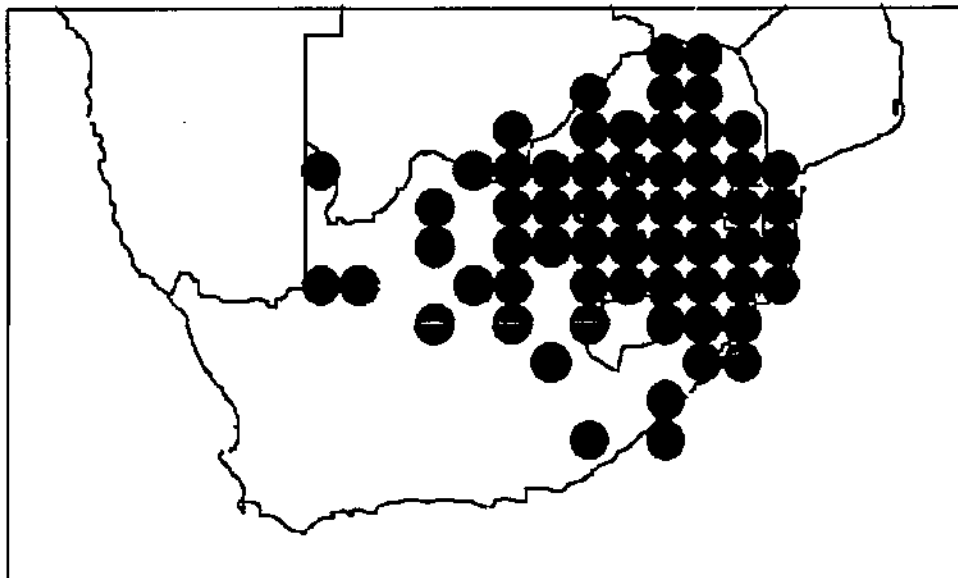


Fig 5. The distribution of *Bufo gutturalis*

The tadpoles of the common toad are gregarious and can be found in large numbers at the bottom and edge of muddy streams.

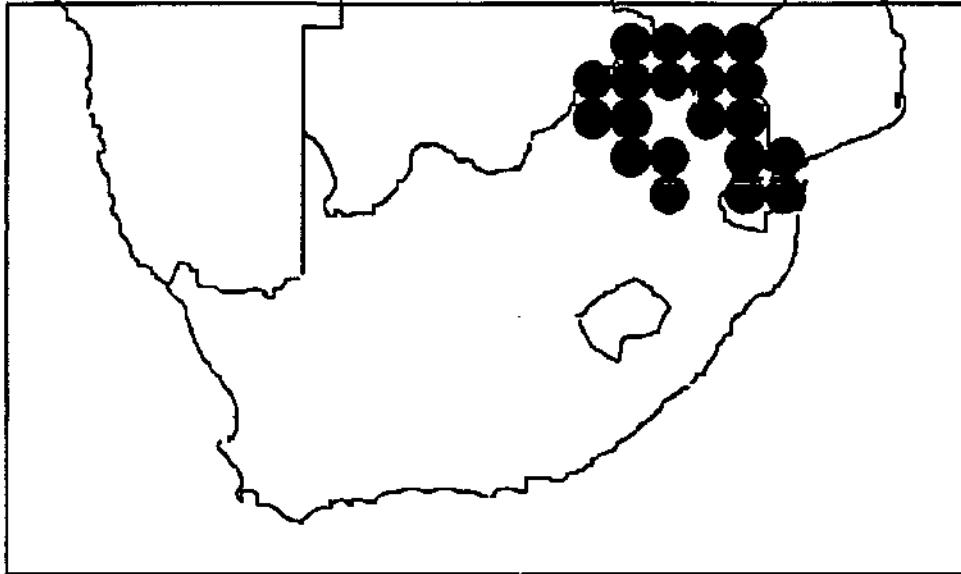


Fig 6 *Bufo maculatus*

The tadpoles are found in shallow backwaters of large rivers.

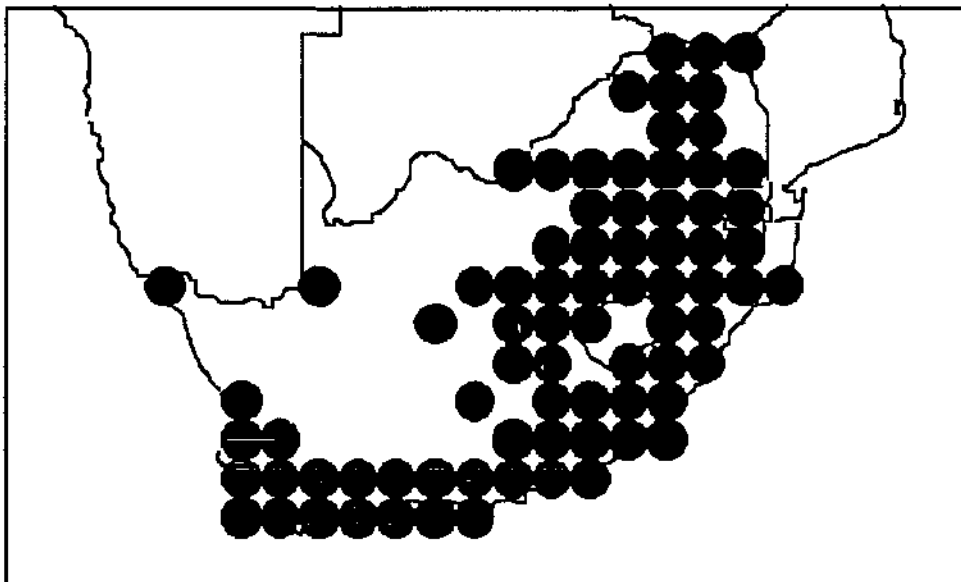


Fig 7. The distribution of *Bufo rangeri*

The tadpoles are ubiquitous in almost all flowing water, where they prefer shallow edges.

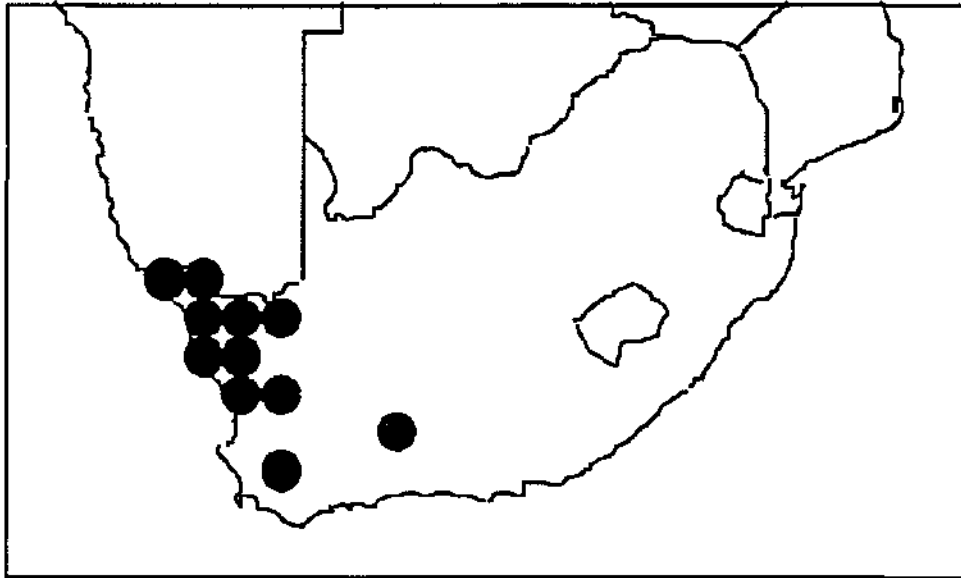


Fig 8. The distribution of *Cacosternum namaquense*

The tadpoles are found along sandy stream bottoms, often remaining in pools formed when the river stops flowing.

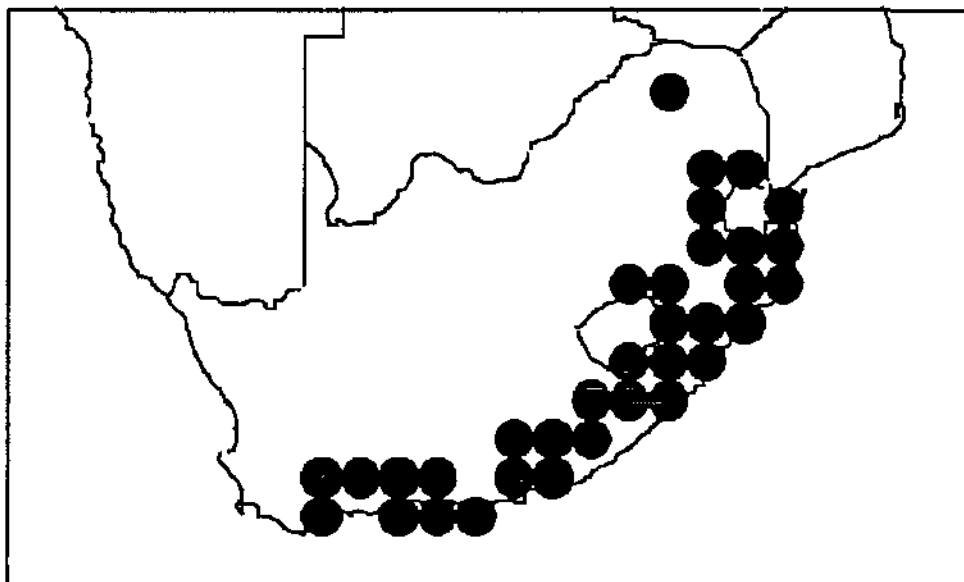


Fig 9. The distribution of *Cacosternum nanum*

The tadpoles of this species are found in slow-flowing drainages, usually associated with grass and other emergent vegetation.

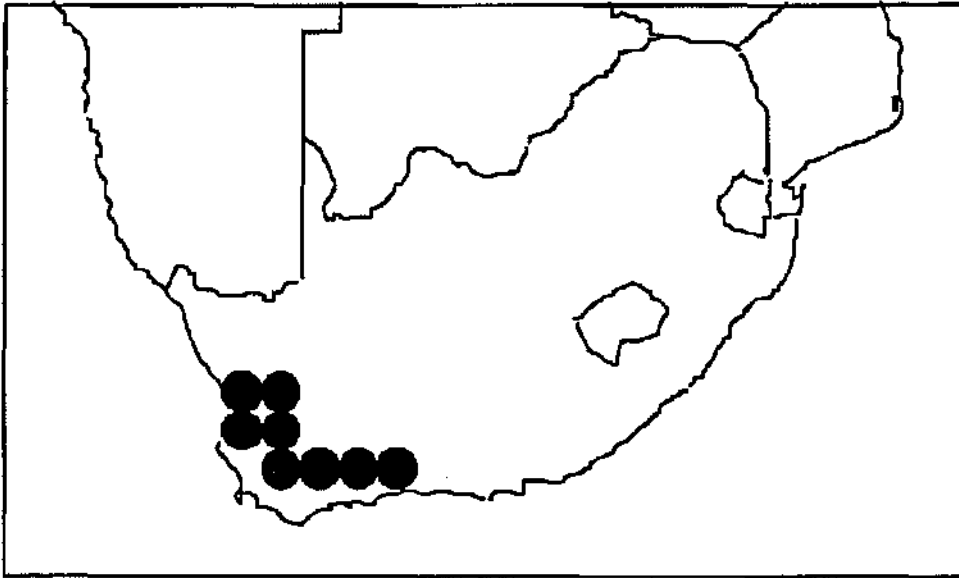


Fig 10. The distribution of *Capensibufo tradouwi*

The tadpoles occur at high altitude, in seepages and slow flowing streams draining the Cape Fold mountains

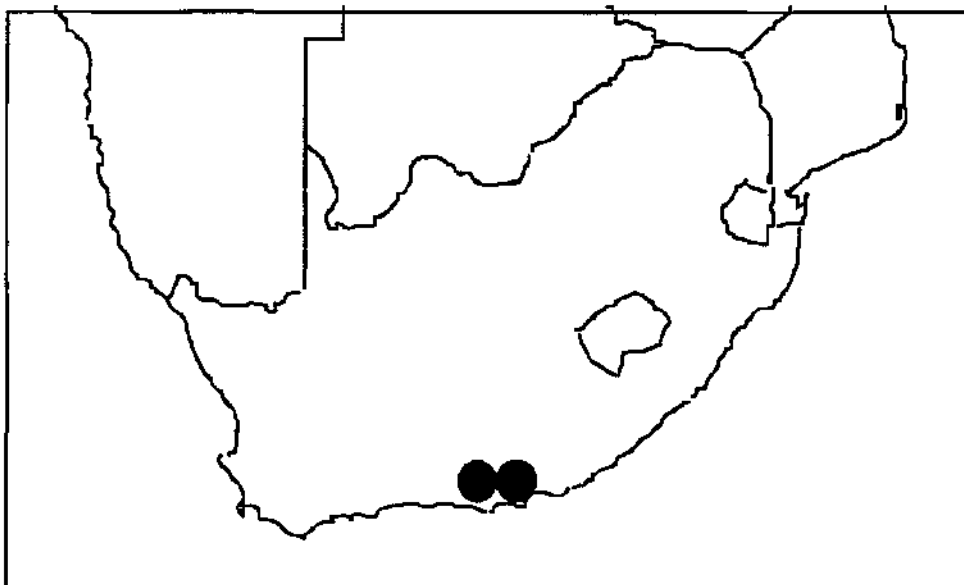


Fig 11 *Heleophryne hewitti*

The tadpoles of this endangered species are restricted to short stretches of fast flowing streams in the Elandsberg Mountains.

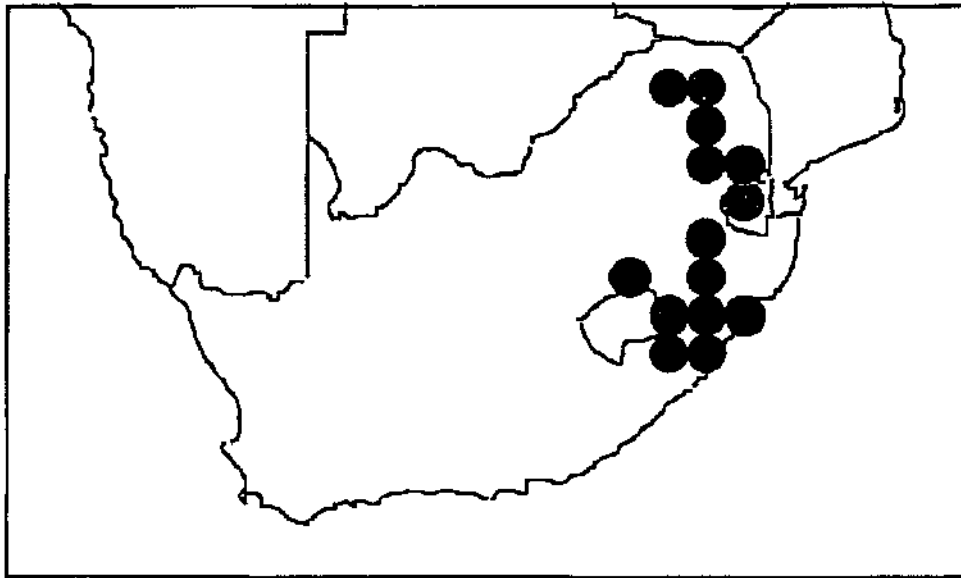


Fig 12. The distribution of *Heleophryne natalensis*

The tadpoles can be found in almost all fast flowing streams, from 3000m down almost to sea level. They prefer well-aerated rivers with water falls and rapids.

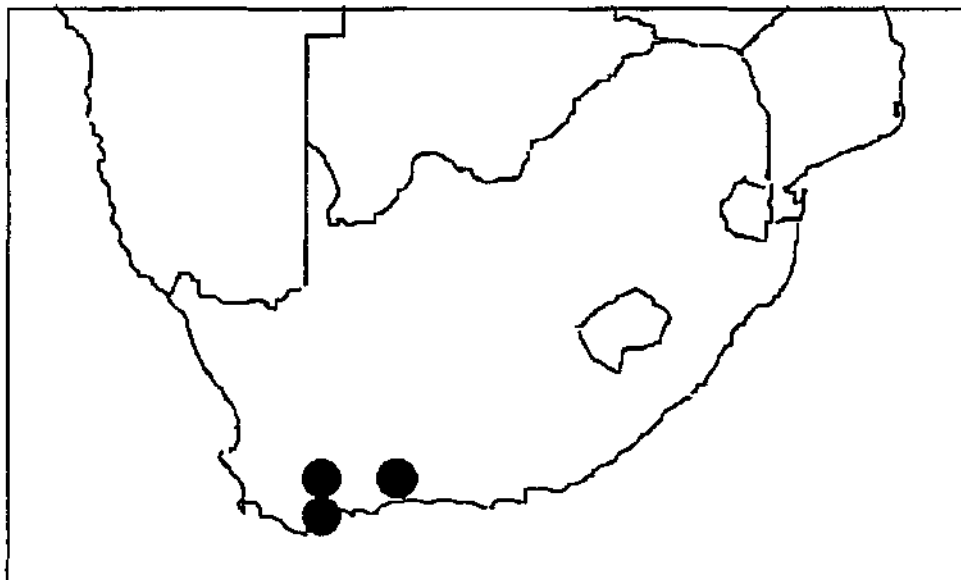


Fig 13. The distribution of *Heleophryne orientalis*

The tadpoles are restricted to the fast flowing streams of the Cape Fold Mountains.

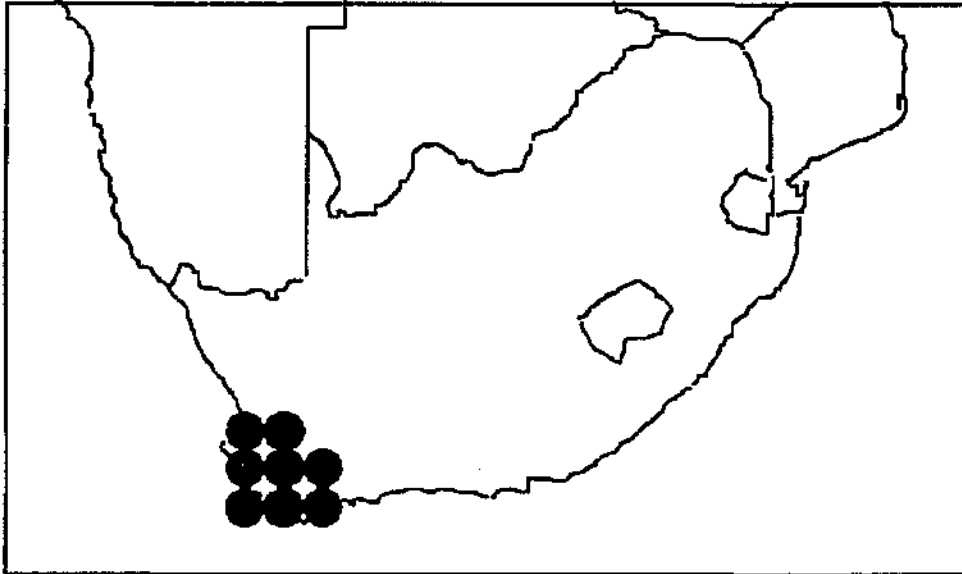


Fig 14. The distribution of *Heleophryne purcelli*

The tadpoles are restricted to fast flowing streams on the western Cape Fold Mountains.

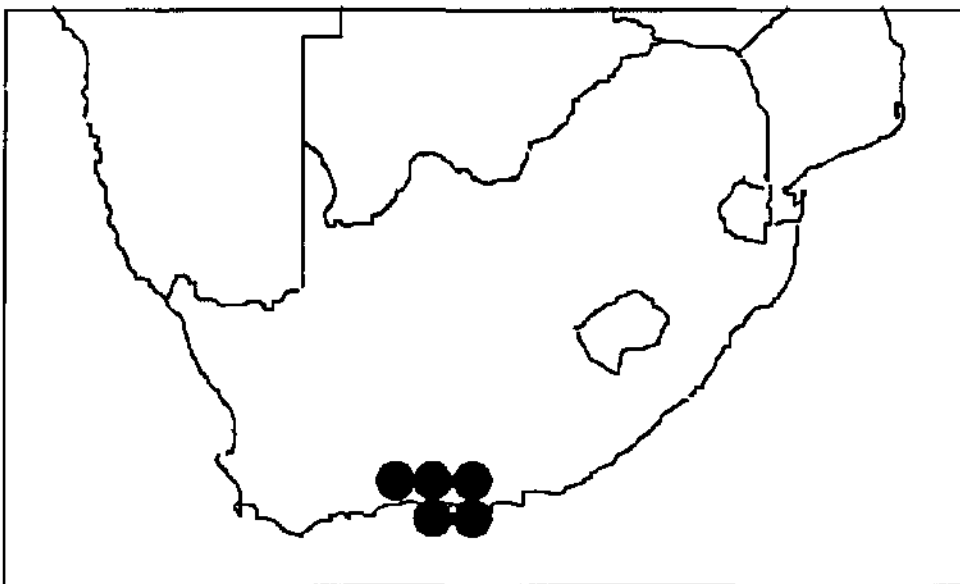


Fig 15. The distribution of *Heleophryne regis*

The tadpoles are restricted to the fast flowing streams of the Cape Fold Mountains.

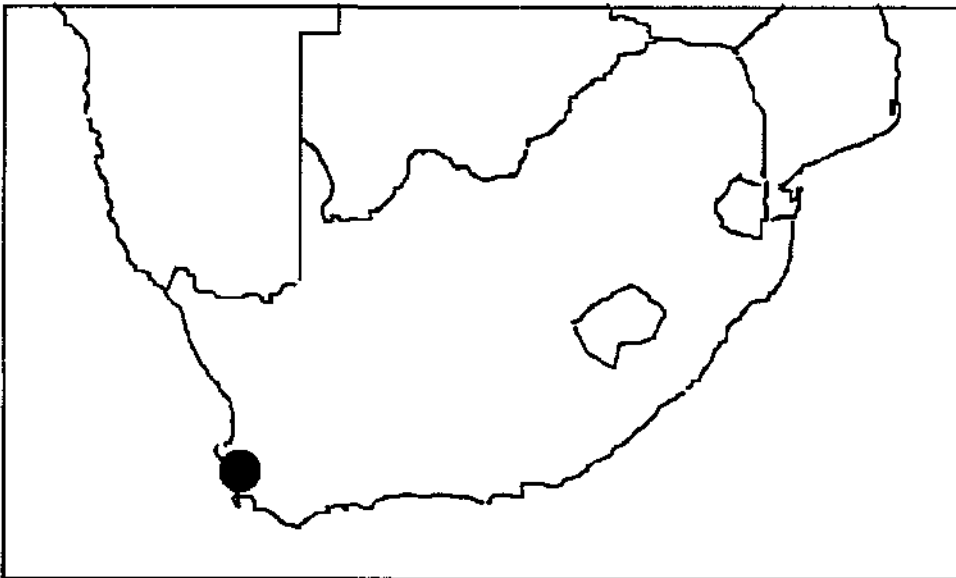


Fig 16. The distribution of *Heleophryne rosei*

The tadpoles of this endangered species are found only in short stretches of streams on the eastern side of Table Mountain on the Cape Peninsula.

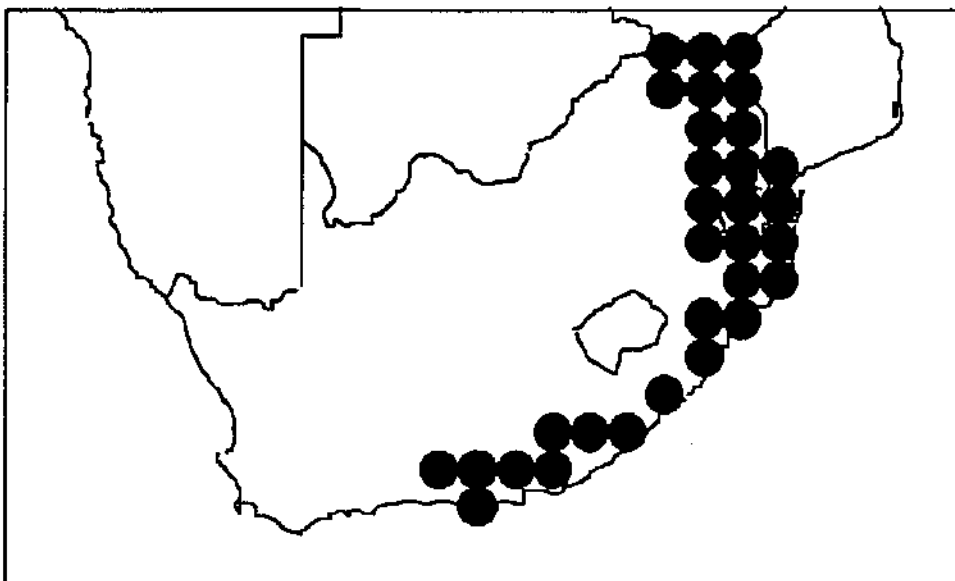


Fig 17. The distribution of *Hyperolius marmoratus*

The tadpoles are found in deep and shallow water that is well vegetated with emergent reeds or grass.

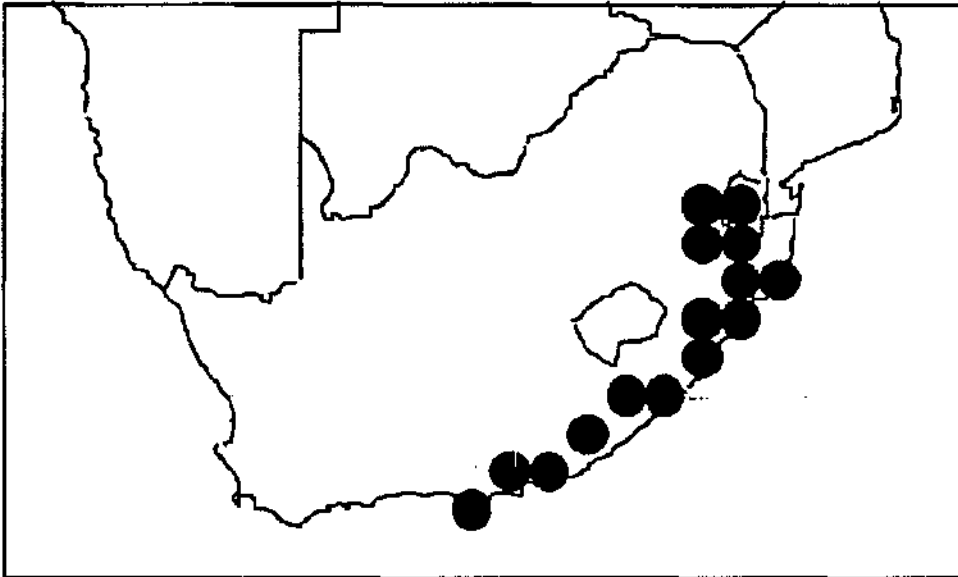


Fig 18. The distribution of *Hyperolis semidiscus*

The tadpoles are found in deep and shallow water that is well vegetated with emergent reeds or grass.

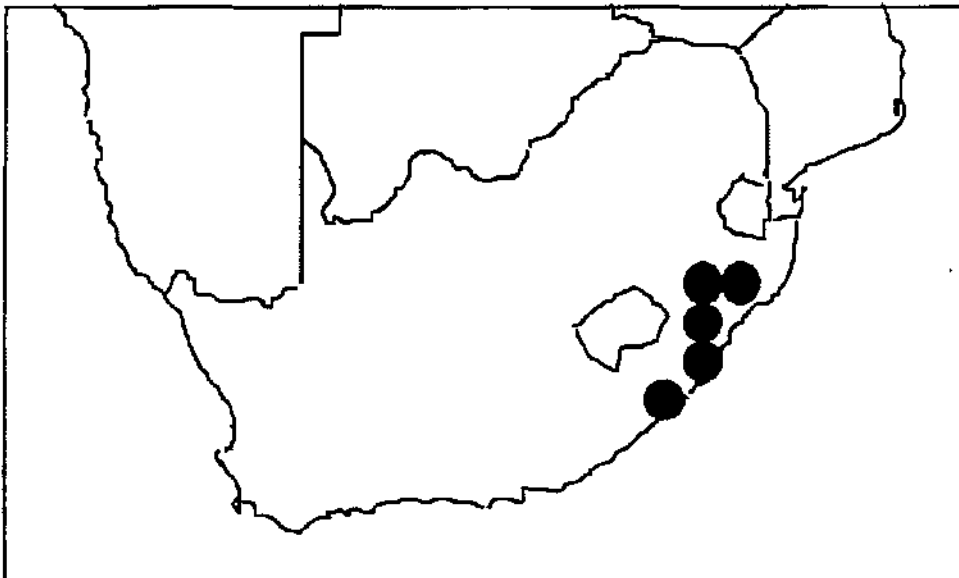


Fig 19. The distribution of *Natalobatrachus bonebergi*

The tadpoles are found only in small streams in forest, or remnants of forest.

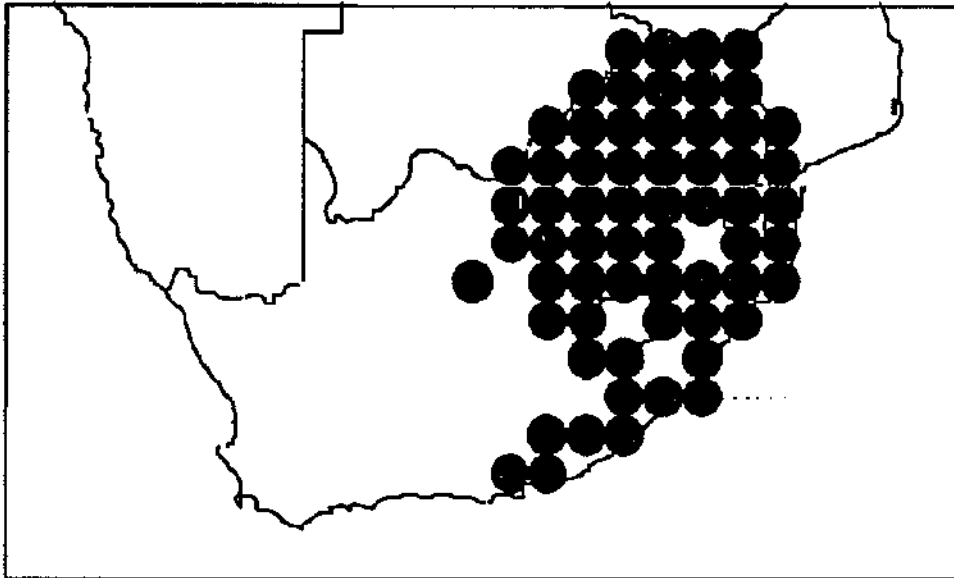


Fig 20. The distribution of *Phrynobatrachus natalensis*
The tadpoles are found in almost any slow flowing water. Often the streams are turbid.

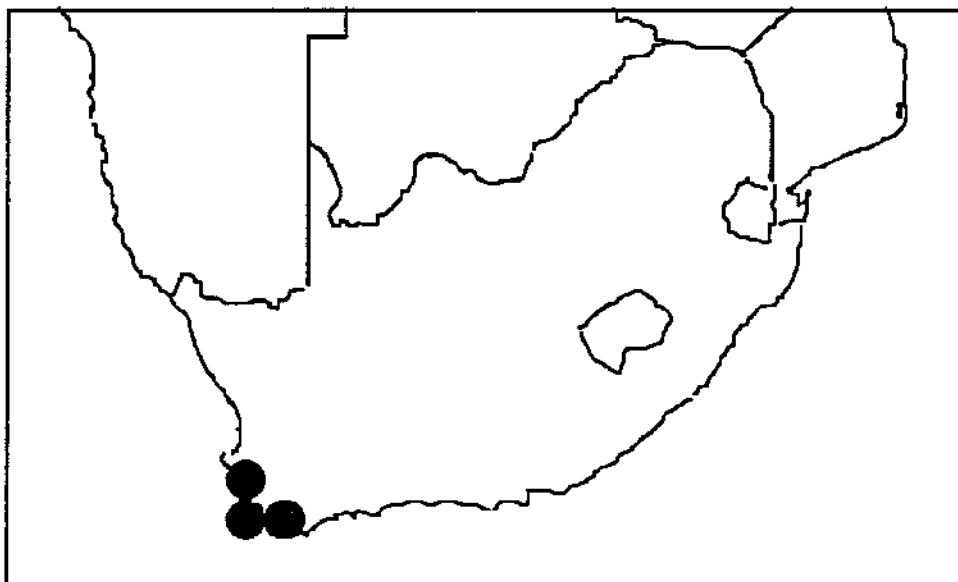


Fig 21. The distribution of *Poyntonia paludicola*
The tadpoles occur in slow flowing seepages on the slopes of the Cape Fold Mountains.

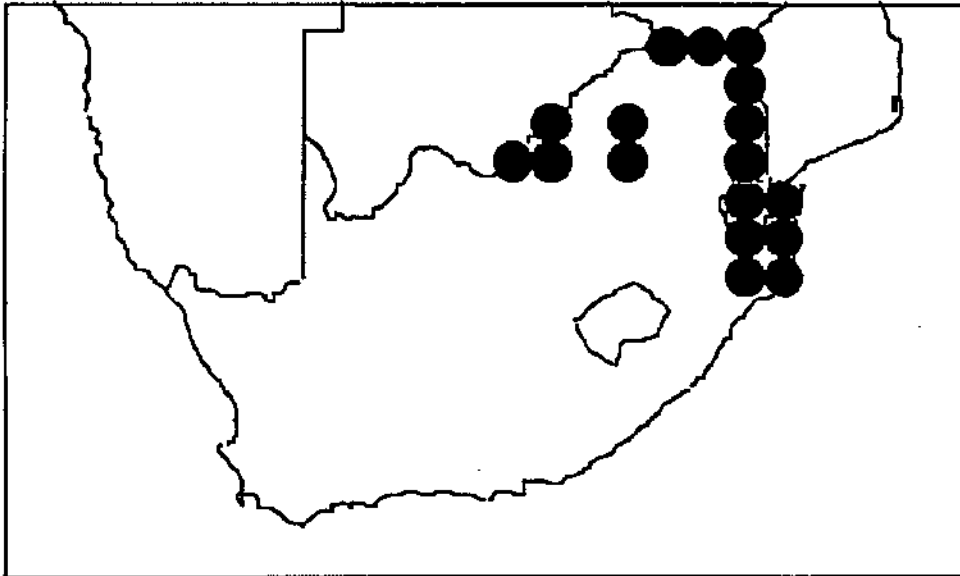


Fig 22. The distribution of *Ptychadena mossambica*

The tadpoles can be found in shallow grassy water, often at the edge of wide, slow flowing sections of drainage.

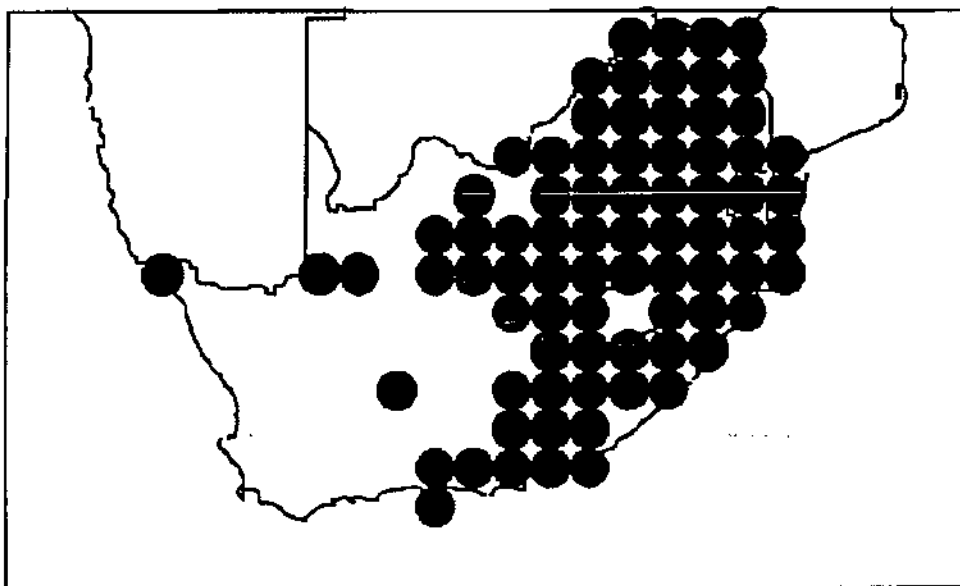


Fig 23. The distribution of *Rana angolensis*

The tadpoles are found in both small and large rivers.

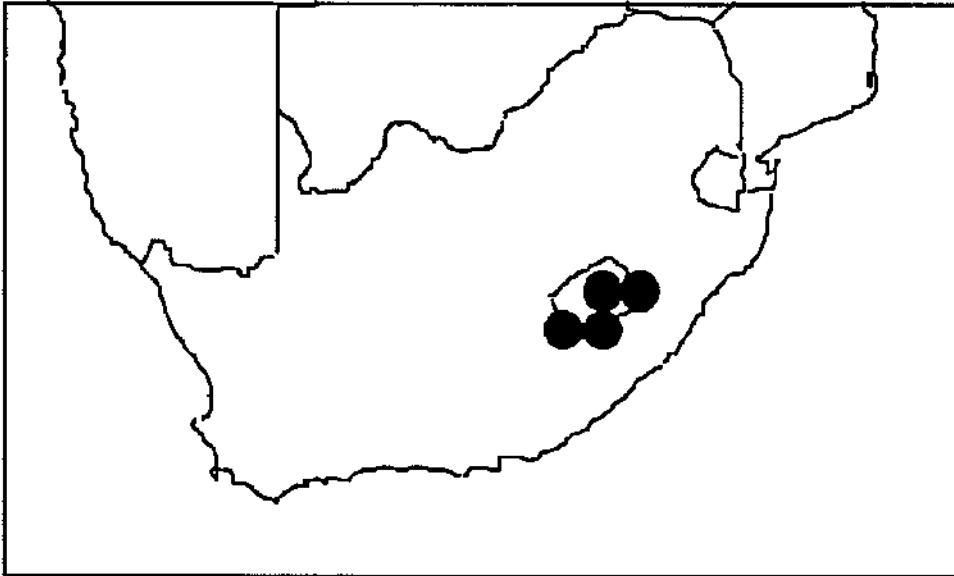


Fig 24. The distribution of *Rana dracomontana*

The large tadpoles of this species occur in the upper reaches of the Gariep river drainage, at altitudes of up to 3000m.

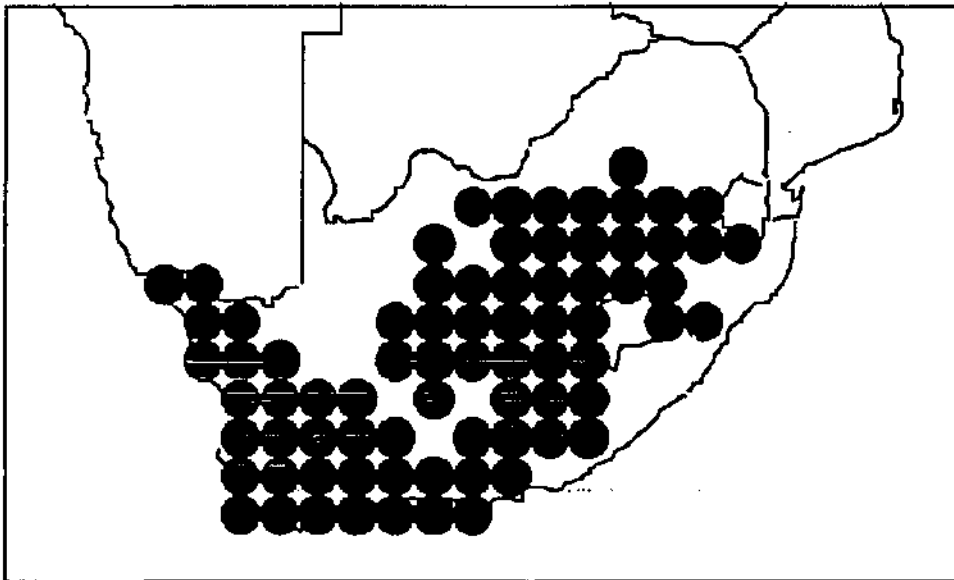


Fig 25. The distribution of *Rana fuscigula*

The robust tadpoles of this species occur in a wide range of streams, from slow flowing water at sea level, to high altitude torrents.

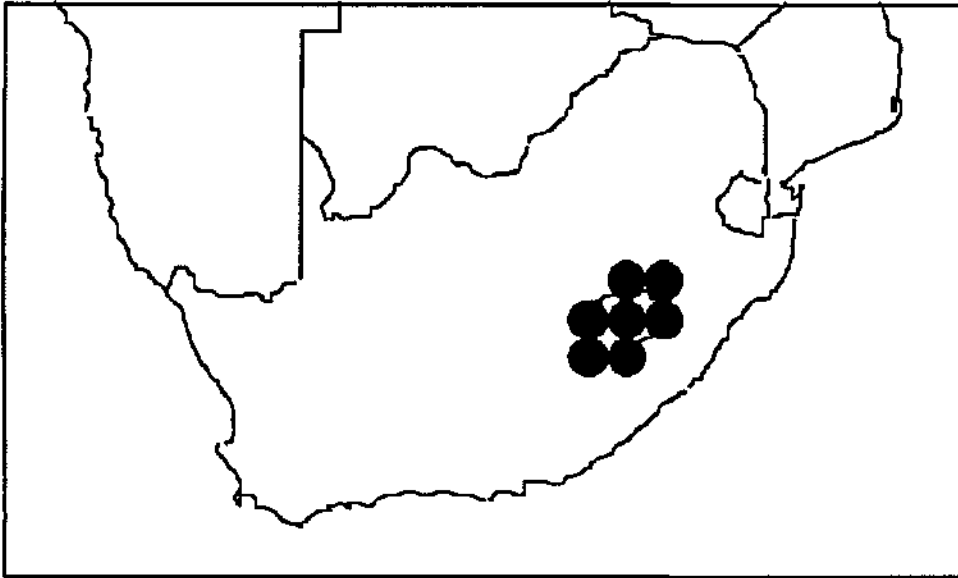


Fig 26. The distribution of *Rana vertebralis*

The tadpoles of this species are found in fast flowing water draining the Drakensberg, from 1500m to the top of the mountain range.

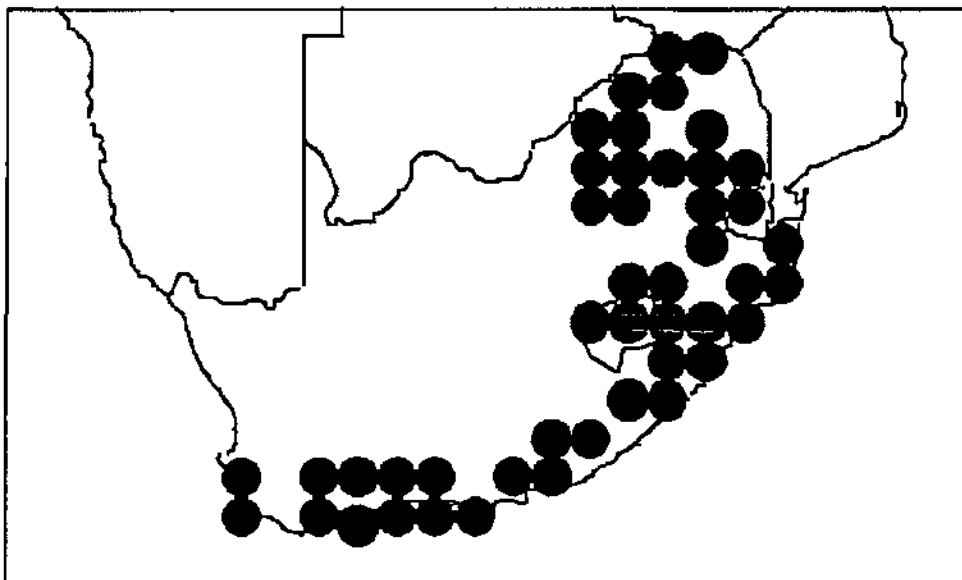


Fig 27. The distribution of *Strongylopus fasciatus*

The tadpoles of this species occur at all altitudes in smaller streams.

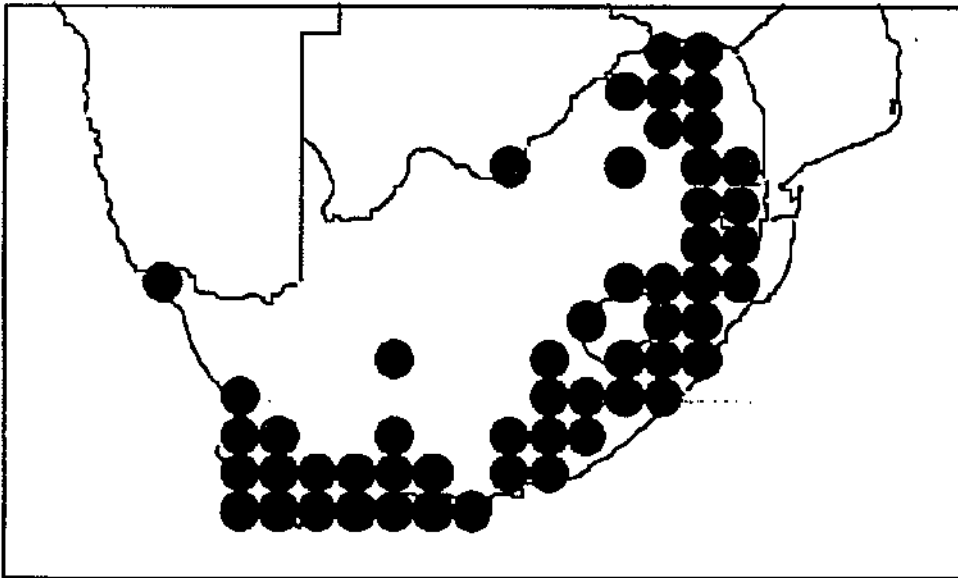


Fig 28. The distribution of *Strongylopus grayii*

This species has tadpoles found in smaller streams, often in turbid and disturbed situations.

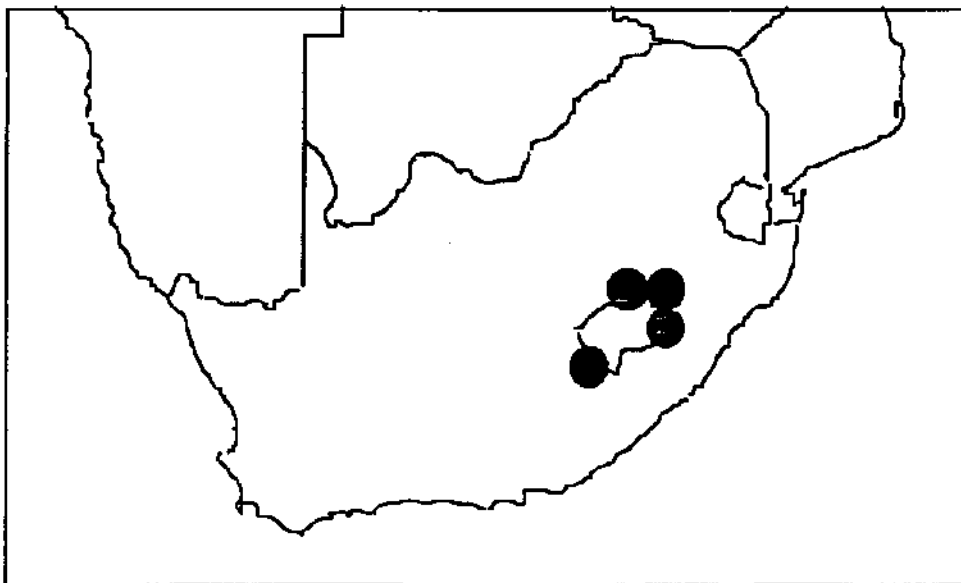


Fig 29. The distribution of *Strongylopus hymenopus*

The tadpoles are restricted to high altitude streams draining the Drakensberg mountains.

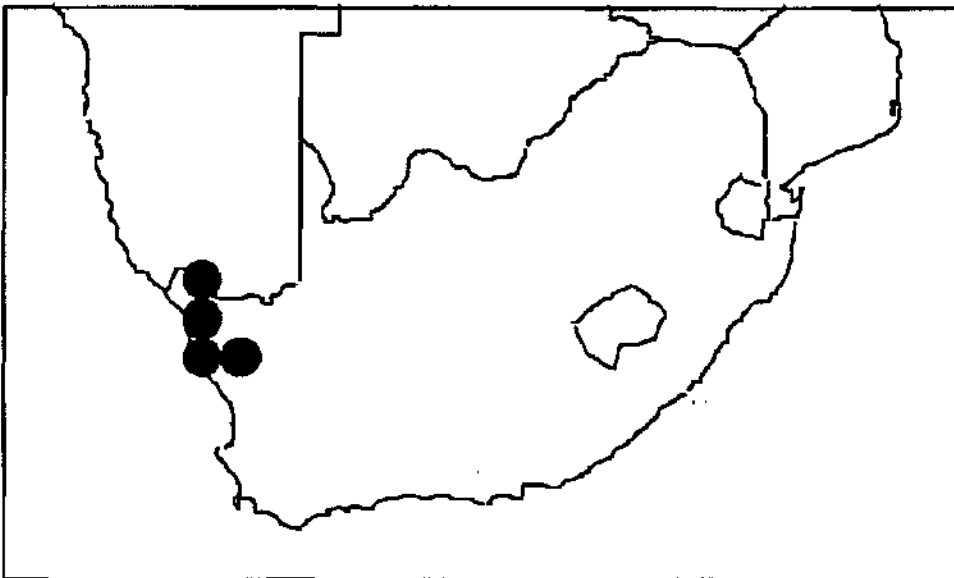


Fig 30. The distribution of *Strongylopus springbokensis*

The tadpoles of this species are found in streams fed by springs, and in pools left after the rivers stop flowing.

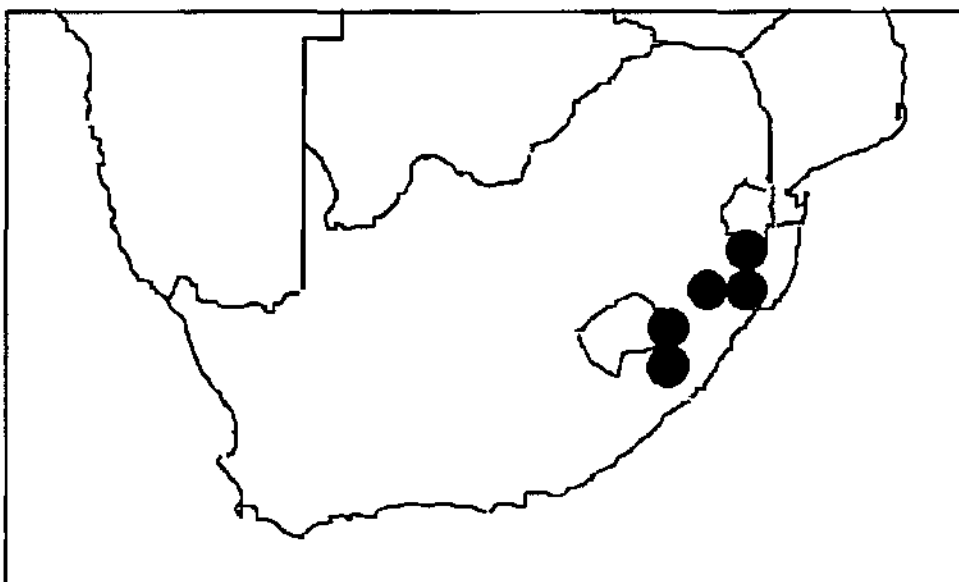


Fig 31. The distribution of *Strongylopus wageri*

The tadpoles of this species are found in forest streams and in high altitude grasslands that were once forested.

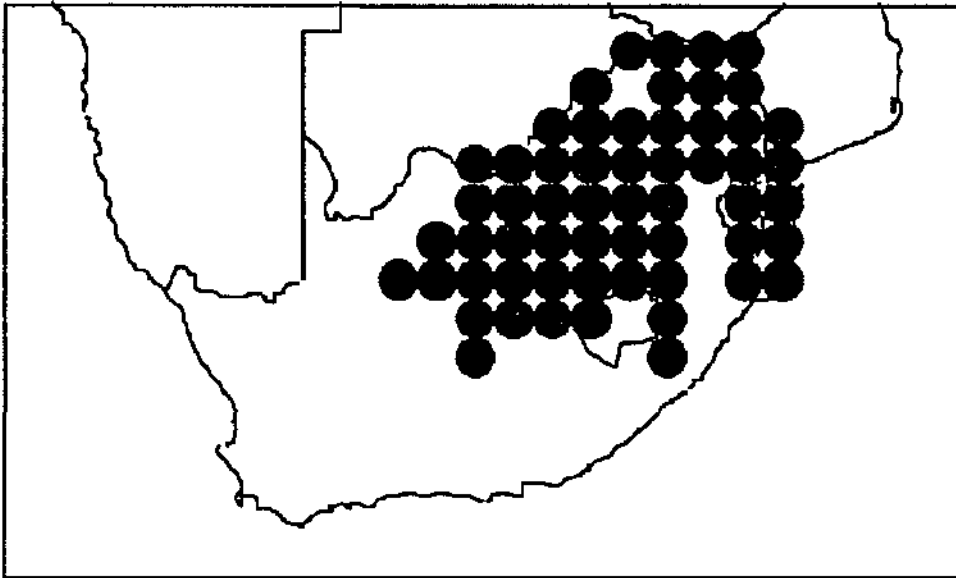


Fig 32. The distribution of *Tomopterna cryptotis*

The tadpoles are found in all drainages where the water is slow flowing. They are associated with muddy substrates.

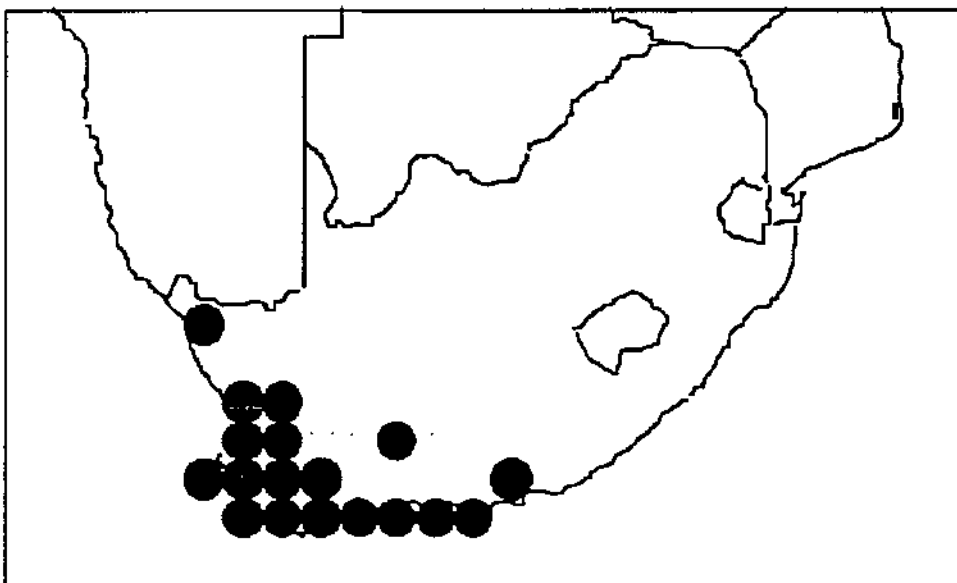


Fig 33. The distribution of *Tomopterna delalandii*

The tadpoles are found in all drainages where the water is slow flowing. They are associated with muddy or gravel substrates.

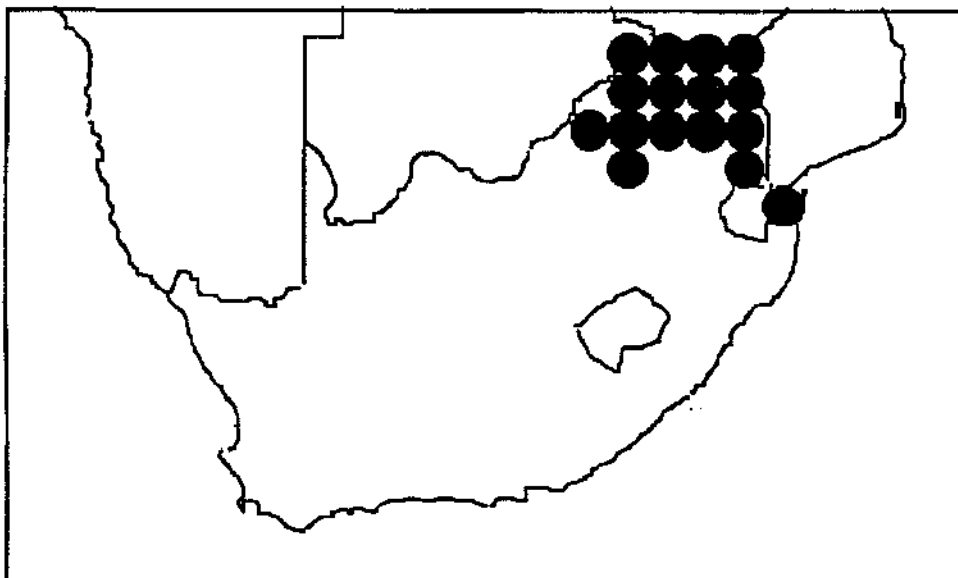


Fig 34. The distribution of *Tomopterna marmorata*

The tadpoles are found in all drainages where the water is slow flowing. They are associated with muddy substrates.

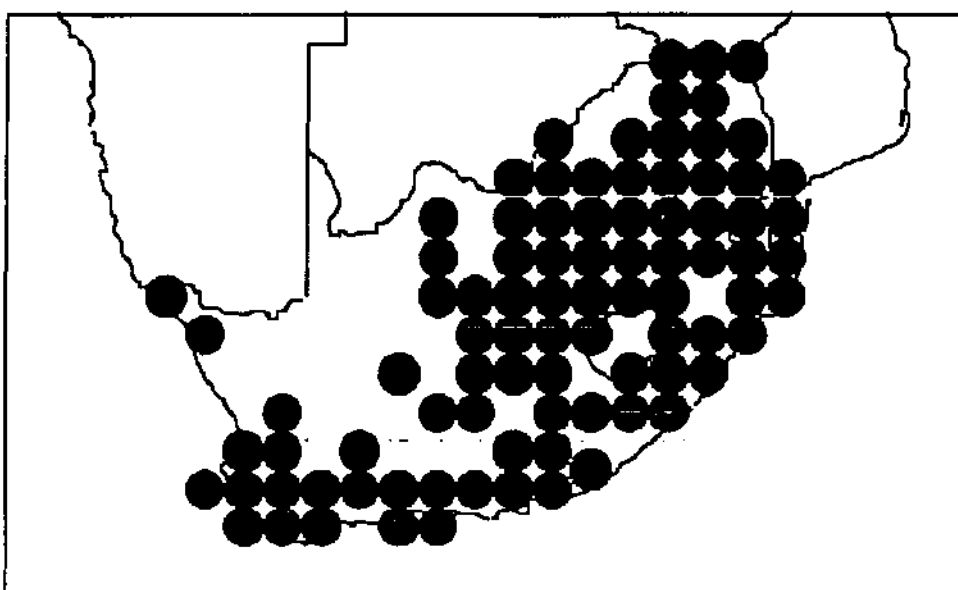


Fig 35. The distribution of *Xenopus laevis*

The tadpoles are gregarious, occurring in schools. They prefer deeper water that is clear.

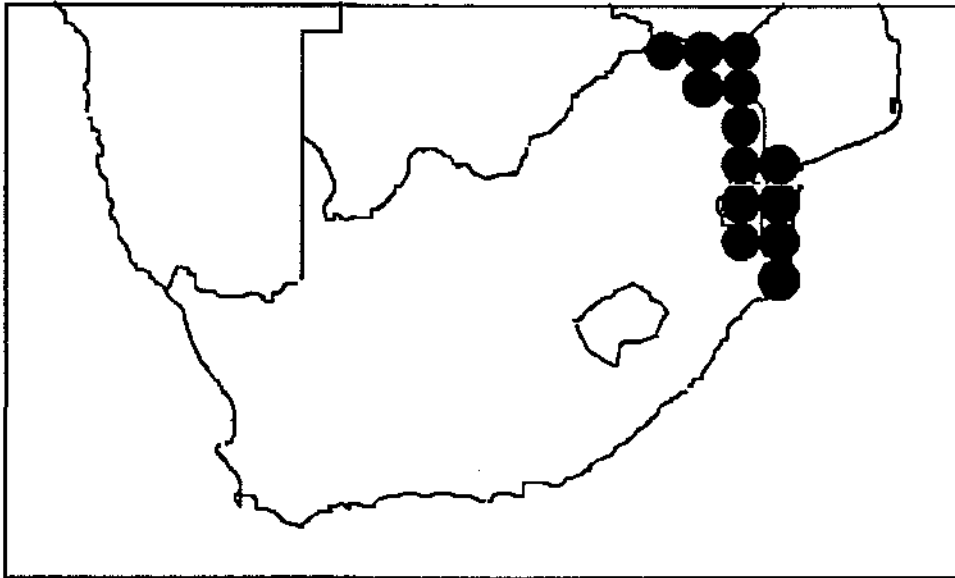


Fig 36. The distribution of *Xenopus muelleri*

The tadpoles are gregarious, occurring in schools. They prefer deeper water, and have been found in both turbid and clear habitats.

3.2.2. Seasonal availability

The presence of tadpoles in streams is dependent on the permanence of the water. For example, perennial mountain streams may have tadpoles all year, with peaks after the rains, once the stream flow has subsided. Annual streams tend to have peaks of tadpole numbers following every major flow. For the purposes of easy analysis, known and expected tadpole presence in streams is summarized in two-month periods in Table 3.

3.3 River system diversity

The classification of the drainage systems follows the map "The Conservation Status of South African Rivers" by J. H. O'Keeffe (1985).

Table 2a. Tadpoles in river systems

SPECIES	RIVER SYSTEM	Limpopo	Incomati	Orange / Vaal	Tugela	Great Fish	Gamtoos
<i>Afrixalus fornasinii</i>		-	-	-	P	-	-
<i>Afrixalus spinifrons</i>		-	-	-	P	-	-
<i>Bufo gariensis</i>		-	-	P	P	P	P
<i>Bufo gutturalis</i>		P	P	P	P	P	-
<i>Bufo maculatus</i>		P	P	-	-	-	-
<i>Bufo rangeri</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Cacosternum namaquense</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cacosternum nanum</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Capensibufo tradouwi</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Heleophryne hewitti</i>		-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Heleophryne natalensis</i>		P	P	-	P	-	-
<i>Heleophryne orientalis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Heleophryne purcelli</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Heleophryne regis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>		P	P	-	P	P	P
<i>Hyperolius semidiscus</i>		-	P	-	P	P	P
<i>Natalobatrachus bonebergi</i>		-	-	-	P	-	-
<i>Phrynobatrachus natalensis</i>		P	P	P	P	P	-
<i>Poyntonia paludicola</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ptychadena mossambica</i>		P	P	-	P	-	-
<i>Rana angolensis</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Rana dracomontana</i>		-	-	P	-	-	-
<i>Rana fuscigula</i>		-	-	P	P	P	P
<i>Rana vandijki</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Rana vertebralis</i>		-	-	P	P	-	-
<i>Strongylopus fasciatus</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Strongylopus grayii</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Strongylopus hymenopus</i> . . .		-	-	P	P	-	-
<i>Strongylopus wageri</i>		-	-	-	P	-	-
<i>Tomopterna cryptotis</i>		P	P	P	P	-	-
<i>Tomopterna delalandii</i>		-	-	-	-	P	P
<i>Tomopterna marmorata</i>		P	P	-	-	-	-
<i>Tomopterna natalensis</i>		P	P	P	P	-	-
<i>Tomopterna tandyi</i>		P	P	P	P	P	-
<i>Xenopus laevis</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P

Table 2b. Tadpoles in river systems

SPECIES	RIVER SYSTEM	Keur-booms	Goukamma	Gourits	Braë	Berg	Olifants
<i>Afrixalus fornasinii</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Afrixalus spinifrons</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bufo gariiepensis</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Bufo gutturalis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bufo maculatus</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bufo rangeri</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Cacosternum namaquense</i>		-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Cacosternum nanum</i>		P	P	P	P	-	-
<i>Capensibufo tradouwi</i>		-	-	-	P	P	P
<i>Heleophryne hewitti</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Heleophryne natalensis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Heleophryne orientalis</i>		-	P	-	-	-	-
<i>Heleophryne purcelli</i>		-	-	-	P	P	P
<i>Heleophryne regis</i>		P	P	-	-	-	-
<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>		P	P	P	-	-	-
<i>Hyperolius semidiscus</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Natalobatrachus bonebergi</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Phrynobatrachus natalensis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Poyntonina paludicola</i>		-	-	-	P	-	-
<i>Ptychadena mossambica</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Rana angolensis</i>		P	P	P	-	-	-
<i>Rana dracomontana</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Rana fuscigula</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Rana vandijki</i>		-	-	P	-	-	-
<i>Rana vertebralis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Strongylopus fasciatus</i>		P	P	P	P	P	-
<i>Strongylopus grayii</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Strongylopus hymenopus</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Strongylopus wageri</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tomopterna cryptotis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tomopterna delalandii</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Tomopterna marmorata</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tomopterna natalensis</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tomopterna tandyi</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Xenopus laevis</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P

Table 3. Seasonality of tadpoles

SPECIES	Two-month period	J/F	M/A	M/J	J/A	S/O	N/D
<i>Afrixalus fornasinii</i>		√ √ √	√			√	√ √ √
<i>Afrixalus spinifrons</i>		√ √ √	√			√	√ √ √
<i>Bufo gariiepensis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Bufo gutturalis</i>		√ √ √	√			√	√ √ √
<i>Bufo maculatus</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Bufo rangeri</i>		√ √ √					√ √ √
<i>Cacosternum namaquense</i>				√	√ √ √	√	√ √ √
<i>Cacosternum nanum</i>		√ √ √				√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Capensibufo tradouwi</i>					√ √ √	√ √ √	
<i>Heleophryne hewitti</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Heleophryne natalensis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Heleophryne orientalis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Heleophryne purcelli</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Heleophryne regis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>		√ √ √	√			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Hyperolius semidiscus</i>		√ √ √	√			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Natalobatrachus bonebergi</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √				√ √ √
<i>Phrynobatrachus natalensis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Poyntonia paludicola</i>				√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	
<i>Ptychadena mossambica</i>		√ √ √				√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Rana angolensis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Rana dracomontana</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Rana fuscigula</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Rana sp A</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Rana vertebralis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Strongylopus fasciatus</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Strongylopus grayii</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Strongylopus hymenopus</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √			√ √ √
<i>Strongylopus wageri</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √				√ √ √
<i>Tomopterna cryptotis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Tomopterna delalandii</i>				√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Tomopterna marmorata</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √				√ √ √
<i>Tomopterna natalensis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Tomopterna tandyi</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √			√ √ √	√ √ √
<i>Xenopus laevis</i>		√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √

The three possible ticks within each two-month interval represent, early, mid and late presence. Note that some species may breed in both summer and winter in different parts of the country.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF TADPOLES

The keys and nomenclature are based on the work of Van Dijk 1966, and Lambiris 1987. Tadpoles can be identified using behavioural cues, although for the beginner the details of the overall body proportions, and the arrangement of tooth rows and other mouthpart details, allow a confident identification to be made.

4.1. Preparation of material

With experience it is trivial to make identifications of most of these stream species of free-swimming individuals. Most tadpoles are too small to be positively identified without the use of a hand lens or stereo microscope, at least for those with limited experience. In order to be able to see all the structures, it is important that the tadpoles are preserved in formalin (10%), and then kept for reference purposes in a 5% solution. Tadpoles should never be preserved in 70% ethanol, as they deteriorate rapidly.

For further analyses of DNA or allozymes, it is necessary that the tadpoles be collected and preserved appropriately. Allozyme analyses require fresh material, or material that is frozen and kept in liquid nitrogen in the field. For DNA studies, it is possible to use either frozen material, or tissue preserved in alcohol. In order to prevent contamination with the DNA of food organisms, only a portion of the tail should be used. The rest of the tadpole can be preserved in formalin as a voucher specimen.

4.2. Characters used

The characters used are explained under "terminology" above. The following diagram of the mouthparts of a tadpole (Fig 37), taken from Van Dijk 1966, illustrates the diagnostic features. There is growing recognition that features present inside the buccal cavity are often very diagnostic. However, I believe that it is unnecessary to explore those features here.

4.3. Key to stream tadpoles

Refer to figure 37 for mouthpart nomenclature, and the definitions of terminology above.

The keys consist of a series of choices. Start at 1a/1b, and select the statement that best fits the tadpole you are identifying. Each choice will either lead you to a new pair of statements indicated by a numeral, or to a species identification.

An example of one species of tadpole from each genus is illustrated in figs 38-51.

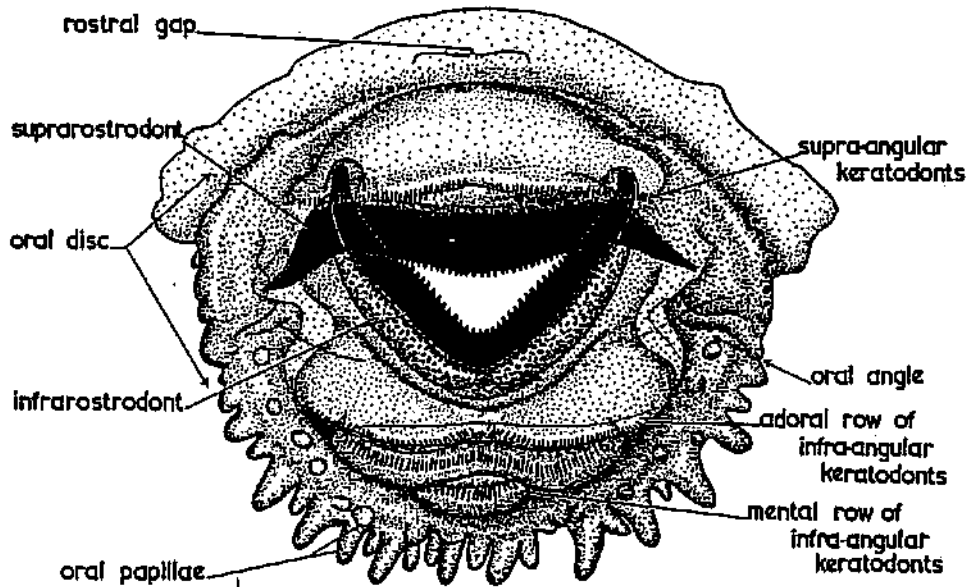


Fig 37. Diagram of the mouthparts of a typical tadpole (After Van Dijk 1966). In the following key, the terminology has been simplified as follows:

Terminology after Van Dijk Terminology in present key

Rostral gap	Gap in upper papillae
Supra-angular keratodonts	Upper tooth rows
Infra-angular keratodonts	Lower tooth rows
Infrarostrodont	Lower beak
Suprarostrodont	Upper beak

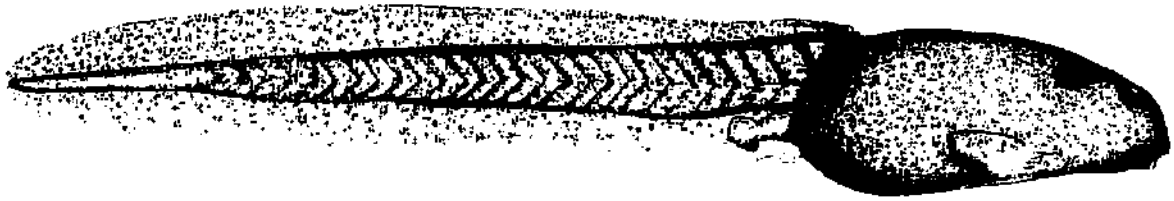


Figure 38. A *Capensibufo* tadpole

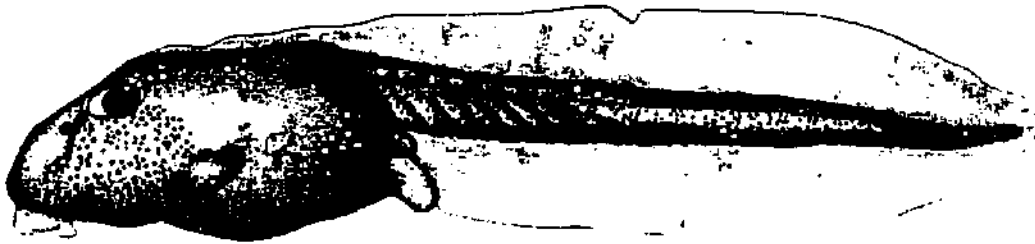


Figure 39. A *Bufo* tadpole



Figure 40. A *Heleophryne* tadpole

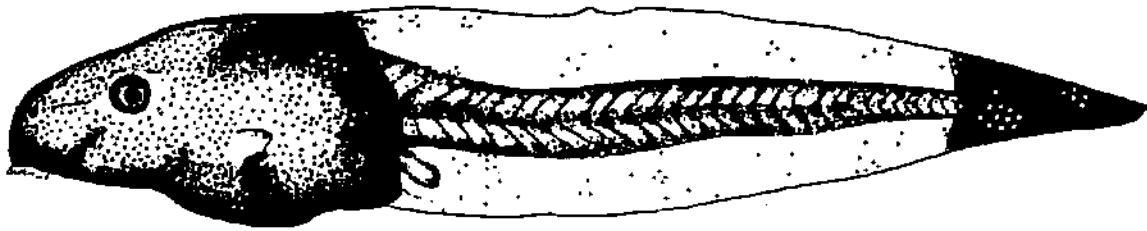


Figure 41. A *Hyperolius* tadpole

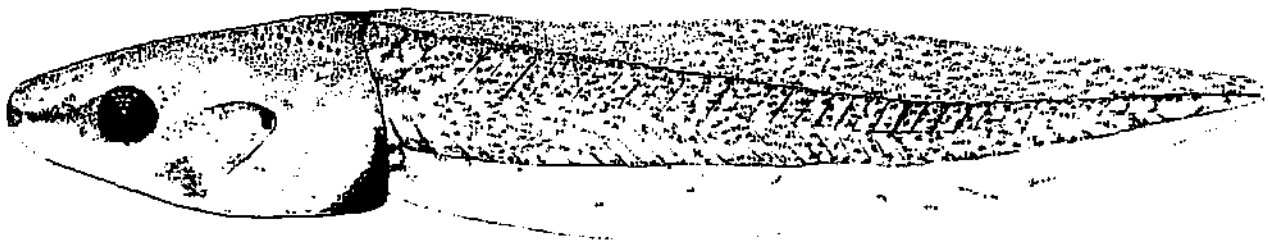


Figure 42. An *Afrixalus* tadpole



Figure 43. A *Poyntonina* tadpole

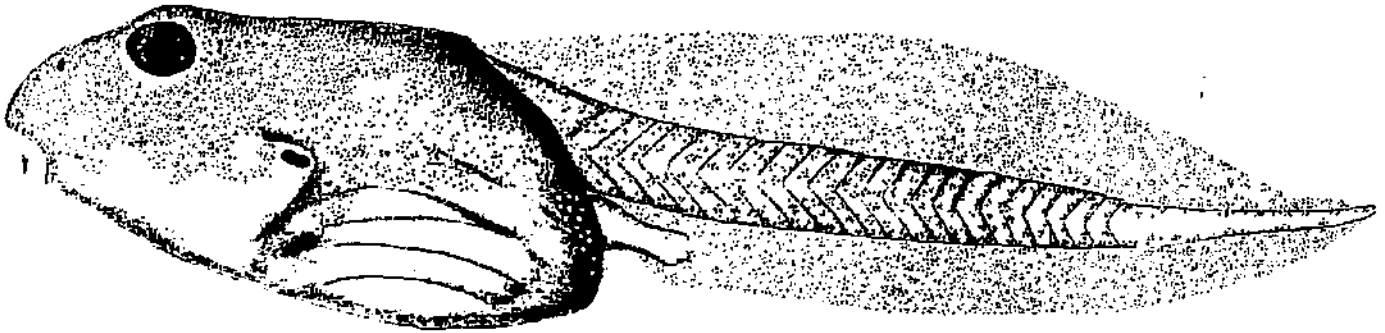


Figure 44. A *Phrynobatrachus* tadpole

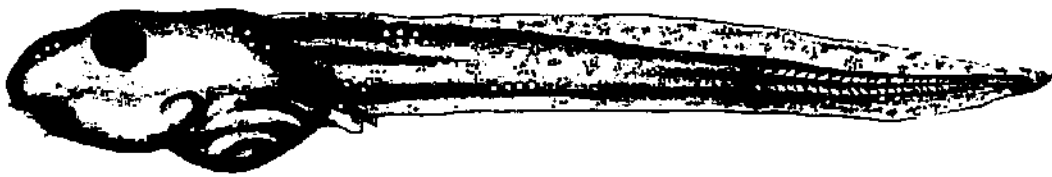


Figure 45. A *Ptychadena* tadpole



Figure 46. A *Tomopterna* tadpole



Figure 47. A *Rana* tadpole

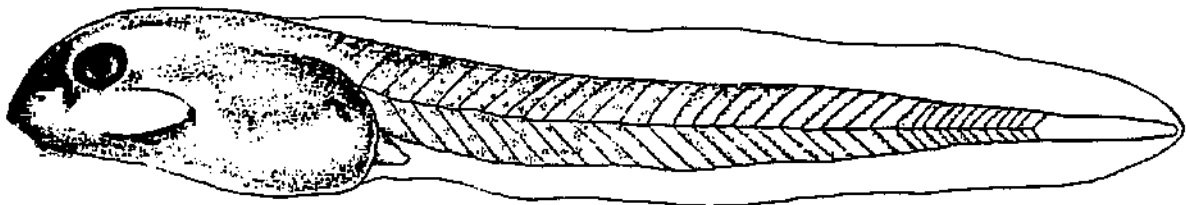


Figure 48. A *Natalobatrachus* tadpole

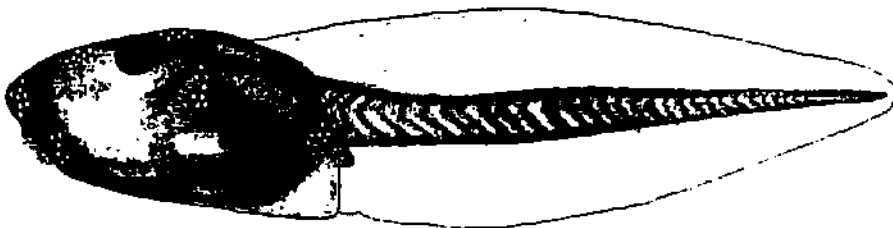


Figure 49. A *Cacosternum* tadpole



Figure 50. A *Strongylopus* tadpole

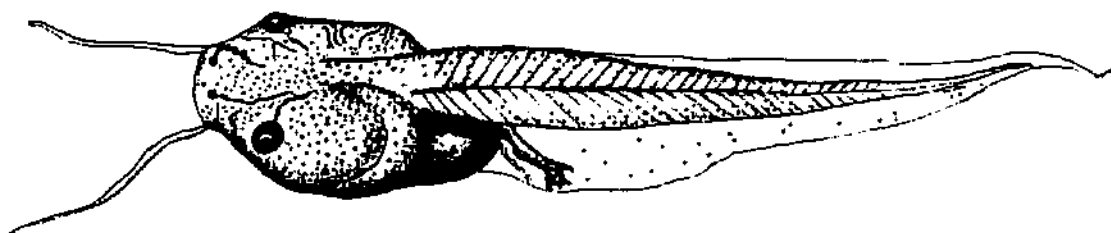


Figure 51. A *Xenopus* tadpole

**IDENTIFICATION KEY TO STREAM DWELLING TADPOLES IN
SOUTH AFRICA**

1a Oral papillae present, and usually
also teeth and beaks (fig 36) 2

1b. No papillae, beaks or teeth

Xenopus laevis

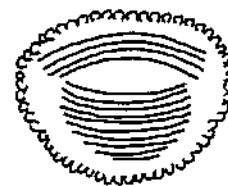


Fig 52

2a. Upper and lower papillae gaps
absent, multiple rows of teeth
present (fig 52) 9

2b. Upper gap in papillae present 3



Fig 53

3a. A broad lower gap in the oral
papillae present, vent in the middle
of the fin edge (fig 53) 5

3b. A lower gap absent, or very narrow
if present. The vent is on the right
side of the fin 4



Fig 54

4a One upper row of teeth, or upper
teeth absent (fig 54) 12

4b Two or more rows of upper teeth 15

5a Tail more than twice as long
as the body (fig 55) *Capensibufo tradouwi*

5b Tail less than twice as long
as body 6

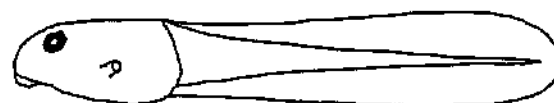


Fig 55

6a Tail nearly uniformly deep
along its length 7

6b Tail with distinct convex
curvature, below, and above 8



Fig 56

7a Tail countershaded, pale below (fig 56)
Bufo maculatus

7b Tail uniformly pigmented (fig 57)
Bufo gariepensis

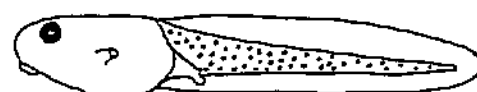


Fig 57

- 8a Pigmentation over tail muscles
confined to upper 2/3 in front (fig 58)

Bufo rangeri



Fig 58

- 8b Pigmentation over tail muscles covers
more than 3/4 in front (fig 59)

Bufo gutturalis



Fig 59

- 9a Found only on Table Mountain on the
Cape Peninsula *Heleophryne rosei*

- 9b Found on mountain ranges
elsewhere 10

- 10a Known from Rode, through the
KwaZulu-Natal midlands escarpment,
and along the Drakensberg mountains
and western Swaziland to
north-eastern South Africa

Heleophryne natalensis

- 10b Restricted to the mountains of
the western and southern Cape 11

- 11a Restricted to four rivers in the Elandsberg
range, the Geelhoutboom river, Martins river,
Klein river and Diepkloof river.

Heleophryne hewitti

- 11b Found east of Montagu along the Langeberg
mountains to the Gouritz river valley.

Heleophryne orientalis

- 11c This species is known from the mountains
of the southern, south-western, and western
Cape, excluding Table mountain,

Heleophryne purcelli

- 11d This frog is known from the mountains east
of the Gouritz river valley, from the Huis river
in the west, to the Kareedouw mountains in
the eastern Cape. *Heleophryne regis*

- 12a One upper row of teeth (fig 60) 13
 12b No upper rows of teeth 14



Fig 60

- 13a A dark tail tip present (fig 61)
Hyperollus marmoratus
 13b No dark tail tip present
Hyperollus semidiscus

- 14a One row of lower teeth present (fig 62)

Afrixalus fornasinii

- 14b Lower tooth rows absent

Afrixalus spinifrons



Fig 61

- 15a Vent on the right; not continuous with the lower edge of the fin (fig 63) 24

- 15b Vent continuous with the lower edge of the fin (fig 64) 16



Fig 62

- 16a One (sometimes two) upper rows, and two lower rows of teeth 17

- 16b Not as above 18



Fig 63

- 17a Numerous white-tipped tubercles covering top and sides of trunk (fig 65)

Poyntonia paludicola

- 17b Top and sides of trunk smooth

Phrynobatrachus natalensis



Fig 64

- 18a Three or more upper rows of teeth, and three or more lower rows of teeth 19

- 18b Two lower rows of teeth

Ptychadena mossambica

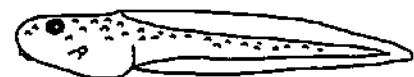


Fig 65

- 19a Lower beak deep and pigmented to its base (fig 66) 26

- 19b Lower beak pigmented along its edge only (fig 67) 20



Fig 66



Fig 67

- 20a Tail not as high as the body and not more than $\frac{5}{3}$ the length of the head and trunk.
A spur develops besides the fifth toe

Tomopterna (all species)

- 20b Tail as high or higher than body, and more than $\frac{5}{3}$ the length of the head and trunk. (fig 68). No spur on foot 21

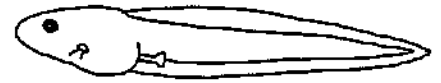


Fig 68

- 21a Elygium present in eye (Fig.69)

Rana dracomontana

- 21b No elygium present in eye 22



Fig 69

- 22a Four rows of lower teeth present

Rana vertebralis

- 22b Three rows of lower teeth 23

- 23a Dorsal fin arises steeply out of the body (fig 70) *Rana fuscigula*

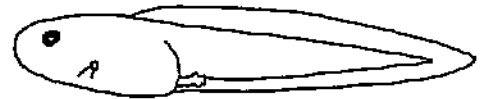


Fig 70

- 23b Dorsal fin forms a long curve from the body to the tip
Rana angolensis

- 24a Distance between lateral edges of nostrils less than distance between inner margins of eyes (fig 71) 25

- 24b Distance between lateral edges of nostrils greater than distance between inner margins of eyes

Natalobatrachus bonebergi

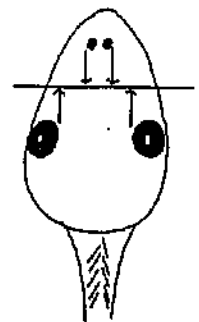


Fig 71

- 25a Four upper tooth rows

Cacosternum namaquense

- 25b Three upper tooth rows

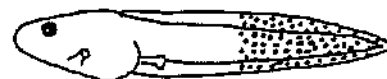
Cacosternum nanum

- 26a Tail height exceeds body height

Strongylopus fasciatus

- 26b Tail not higher than body 27

- 27a Eyes without elygium 29
 27b Elygium present (fig 69) 28



- 28a The back fifth of the tail is dark (fig 72)

Strongylopus wageri 72

- 28b The tail is not darker towards the tip

Strongylopus hymenopus

- 29a Two undivided rows of lower teeth

Strongylopus springbokensis

- 29b Three undivided rows of lower teeth

Strongylopus grayii

5. SENSITIVITY TO PESTICIDES

5.1. FETAX procedure

The FETAX procedure (Frog Embryo Teratogenesis Assay - *Xenopus*) was developed in 1983 by Dr J. Dumont and his team at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. It is useful for screening for the potential developmental toxicity of particular chemicals, or of environmental samples. Briefly, it consists of exposing early embryos of *Xenopus laevis*, the common platanna, to a dilution series of the test material for 96 hours. Three important comparative values can be obtained from the results. 1) The concentration at which 50% of the embryos fail to develop (LC50), 2) the effective concentration at which 50% of the embryos show developmental abnormalities (EC50 malformation), and 3) the minimum concentration to inhibit growth (MCIG).

5.2. Test materials

5.2.1. *Bacillus thuringiensis*

5.2.1.1. Description and commercial use

This is a bacterium that produces an endotoxin used as an insecticide. The bacterium is ingested by the target insect, and the endotoxin damages the lining of the gut. The insects stop feeding and starve to death (Tomlin 1994). It is highly specific against insects, and used for example on stone fruit, vines, tomatoes and olives. Three different subspecies are used. It is used to control blackflies *Simulium* in the Gariep river.

5.2.1.2. Ecotoxicology

Although apparently harmless to man and other mammals, in water the known fish ecotoxicology LC₅₀ (96 h) for guppies is >156, and for gobies >400 mg/l.

5.2.1.3. Environmental fate

Persistence is short, with a half life of the spores only 10 h, due to UV sensitivity. In soil, insecticidal activity has a half life of 20 to 500 d, depending on the bacterium's ability to obtain nutrients.

5.2.2. *Chlorthalonil*

5.2.2.1. Description and commercial use

This is a fungicide that is non-systemic. It is used to control fungal diseases in a range of crops, including stone fruit, strawberries, pawpaws, bananas and mangoes.

5.2.2.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: LC₅₀ (96 h) for rainbow trout 49, bluegill sunfish 62, channel catfish 44 ppb (mol wt 265.9)

5.2.2.3. Environmental fate

In aquatic soil the half life is up to a few days.

5.2.3. Deltamethrin

5.2.3.1. Description and commercial use

This is a pyrethroid insecticide. It is a non-systemic insecticide with contact and stomach action. It is used on almost all crops against a range of insects.

5.2.3.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: LC₅₀ (96 h) for rainbow trout 0.91, and bluegill sunfish 1.4 mg/l. It is reported not to be toxic to fish under natural conditions. It is considered not to represent a hazard to aquatic fauna in normal field use (Tomlin 1994).

5.2.3.3. Environmental fate

This compound adsorbs strongly onto soil, and does not leach into water. It is degraded by microbial action. The half-life under field conditions is less than 23 d.

5.2.4. Dichlorvos

5.2.4.1. Description and commercial use

Classified as organophosphorus, this is an acaricide and insecticide. It is a cholinesterase inhibitor with a rapid knockdown. For this reason it is widely used on a range of crops to control for example flies, mosquitoes and spider mites.

5.2.4.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: LC₅₀ (96 h) for rainbow trout 930, golden orfe 450 mg/l.

5.2.4.3. Environmental fate

Reported as non-persistent, with rapid decomposition to phosphoric acid and CO₂. The half life in biologically active water systems is less than 1 d.

5.2.5. Fenthion

5.2.5.1. Description and commercial use

This is an organophosphorus insecticide. It has contact, stomach and respiratory action. It is used on a very wide range of crops to control, for example, fruit flies, leafhoppers and cereal bugs, and also in public health situations to control insect pests like cockroaches and mosquitoes.

5.2.5.2. Ecotoxicology

The LC₅₀ (96 h) for bluegill sunfish is 1.6, rainbow trout 0.87, and for golden orfe 2.7 mg/l.

5.2.5.3. Environmental fate

The half life is only 1 d. However, the major aerobic metabolites are fenthion sulfoxide and fenthion sulphone, both of which also have insecticidal properties.

5.2.6. Imidacloprid

5.2.6.1. Description and commercial use

This is a systemic insecticide, that acts on the central nervous system, to cause irreversible blockage of acetylcholine receptors. It is used on soil, to treat seeds, and sprayed on leaves. It is applied on cereals, maize, potatoes, citrus and stone fruit.

5.2.6.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: LC₅₀ (96 h) for golden orfe 237, rainbow trout 211 mg/l.

5.2.6.3. Environmental fate

No half life has been determined, partly due to the complex chemistry involved in degradation.

5.2.7. Isazofos

5.2.7.1. Description and commercial use

This is an organophosphorus, used as a nematicide and insecticide. It is a known cholinesterase inhibitor. The product is applied to the soil, and is used for example, to protect citrus, maize, vegetables and sugarcane.

5.2.7.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: bluegill sunfish LC₅₀ (96 h) 0.01, carp 0.22, trout 0.008-0.019 mg/l.

5.2.7.3. Environmental fate

It is not known to accumulate in mammals. The half life in water is 10 d.

5.2.8. Mancozeb

5.2.8.1. Description and commercial use

This fungicide is classified as a alkylenebis(dithiocarbamate). It is used to control many fungal diseases in a range of field crops, by spraying or by seed treatment.

5.2.8.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: LC₅₀ (48 h) for goldfish 9.0, rainbow trout 2.2, catfish 5.2, carp 4.0 mg/l.

5.2.8.3. Environmental fate

It degrades by hydrolysis, oxidation and photolysis. The half life in soil is 6-15 d.

5.2.9. Simazine

5.2.9.1. Description and commercial use

Classified as 1,3,5-triazine, this herbicide is closely related to atrazine. It acts by accumulating in the apical meristems and leaves, where it is an inhibitor of the photosynthetic electron transport system. It is used on many crops to control annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds.

5.2.9.2. Ecotoxicology

Known fish ecotoxicology: LC₅₀ (96 h) for bluegill sunfish 90, rainbow trout >100, crucian carp >100, guppies 49 mg/l.

5.2.9.3. Environmental fate

This compound has a low solubility in water. The half life in soil is 70-110 d.

5.3. Methods

5.3.1. FETAX solution

All experimental dilutions and controls were based on FETAX solution: This is made up by adding the following per litre of deionized water: (ASTM 1991)

625 mg NaCl
 96 mg NaHCO₃
 30 mg KCl
 15 mg CaCl₂
 60 mg CaSO₄.2H₂O
 75 mg MgSO₄

The final pH should be between 7.6 and 7.9.

5.3.2. Stock solutions

Stock solutions of all test materials were made up to standard spraying concentrations. This is based on 500 l of water used to carry the recommended dosage per Ha. The test materials, dosage per Ha, and equivalent amount per 50 ml stock is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Experimental stock solutions

Test material	Dosage per Ha (of active ingredient)	Amount per 50 ml
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	750 g	75 mg
Chlorthalonil	2 l	200 µl
Deltamethrin	100 ml	10 µl
Dichlorovos	500 ml	50 µl
Fenthion	500 ml	50 µl
Imidacloprid	200 ml	20 µl
Isazophos	2 l	200 µl
Mancozeb	750 g	75 mg
Simazine	5 l	5 ml (*See note)

*Simazine was adjusted to a dosage of 50 l per Ha, as it showed no effects at lower dosages.

5.3.3. Test animals

Breeding pairs were wild-caught before each experiment, and released afterwards. The male and female were allowed to acclimate for 24-48 h in individual containers.

The animals were brought to reproductive readiness by primer injections of HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin), trade name Pregnyl. The male was given 150 iu, and the female 250 iu. After 48 h the pair were given booster injections and placed together in a dark container. The booster injections were 200 iu for the male, and 300 iu for the female.

The frogs lay eggs in small groups, and attach these to the side and bottom of the container. The eggs are harvested 10 hours after the pair are placed together

5.3.4. Procedure

This is an abbreviated description of the modified FETAX procedure used. The complete description is available in ASTM: E 1439 "Standard Guide for Conducting the Frog Embryo Teratogenesis Assay - *Xenopus* (FETAX). For each test material a stock solution was made up that is equivalent to a typical spray application, based on 500 l of solution per Ha. The stock concentrations were determined by calculation, not by analysis. A series of 20 ml, 1:2 serial dilutions were prepared in FETAX solution, plus two controls. 10 eggs were placed in each glass dish. The starting eggs were between stages 8 and 11.

The experiment was allowed to run for 96 h at 24°C, or until the controls had reached stage 46 if the temperature varied slightly. The experiment was replicated. After 96 h, the embryos were scored for survival before being fixed in formalin. The embryos were then measured, and checked for malformations.

5.4. Results

Bantle et al (1991) in their "Atlas of Abnormalities" illustrate the kinds of malformations that can be expected in embryos of *Xenopus laevis*. Mortality data are typically analysed using either the probit or Spearman-Kärber methods. The data generated in this study did not fit the assumptions or data requirements of probit analysis. LC50, and the 95% confidence limits, were determined

using the parametric Spearman-Kärber method (Hamilton et al 1977). EC₅₀ is the effective concentration at which development of tadpoles is affected. TI is the teratogenic index where $TI = LC_{50}/EC_{50}$. It is a measure of the developmental influence of the tested compound, in the absence of obvious lethal effects

The LC₅₀ values and their confidence limits as well as EC₅₀, and TI are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of tadpole toxicity measures

Test material	LC ₅₀ (mg/l)	Lower 95% (mg/l)	Upper 95% (mg/l)	EC ₅₀ (mg/l)	TI
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	163.2	126.0	211.3	0.02	8160
Chlorthalonil	0.09	0.07	0.1	0.02	4.5
Deltamethrin	0.19	0.16	0.24	0.006	31
Dichlorovos	39.4	33.9	45.7	0.5	78
Fenthion	2.61	1.86	3.68	0.002	1305
Imidacloprid	17.4	14.6	20.6	10.0	1.74
Isazophos	724	467	1122	0.25	2896
Mancozeb	3.08	2.47	3.84	0.03	102

5.4.1. *Bacillus thuringiensis*

5.4.1.1. Malformations

Some typical developmental abnormalities are illustrated in fig. 73.

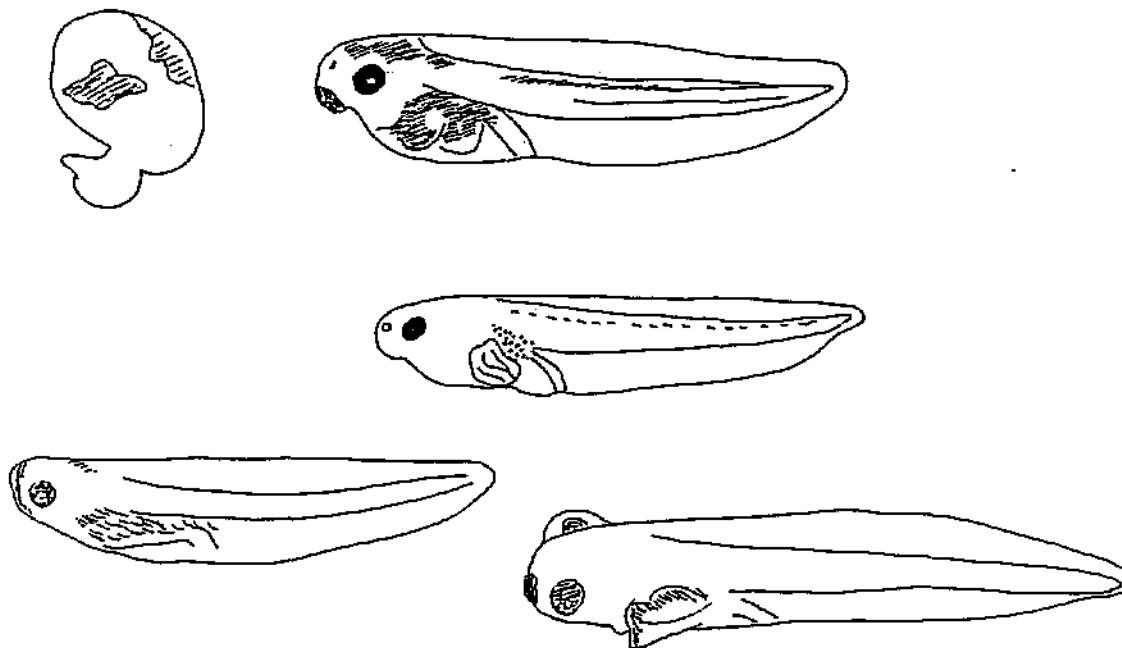


Figure 73. Illustrations of some abnormal development caused by *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The sketches are not all to the same scale. A control is in the centre. Typical abnormalities include a failure of the eggs to develop, abnormal eyes, and tail bent dorsally.

5.4.2. Chlorthalonil

5.4.2.1. Malformations

Some typical developmental abnormalities are illustrated in fig 74.

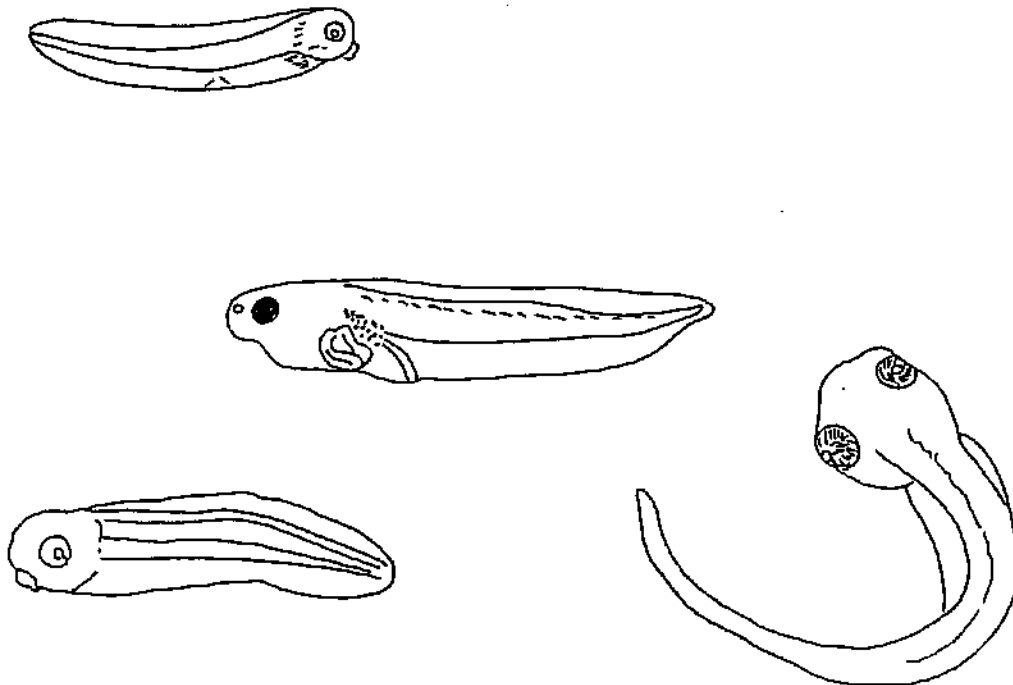


Figure 74. Some abnormalities caused by chlorthalonil. Sketches not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical abnormalities include the tail bent up or down, and severe sideways twisting of the body.

5.4.3. Deltamethrin

5.4.3.1. Malformations

Some abnormalities associated with tadpole development in deltamethrin are illustrated in fig 75.

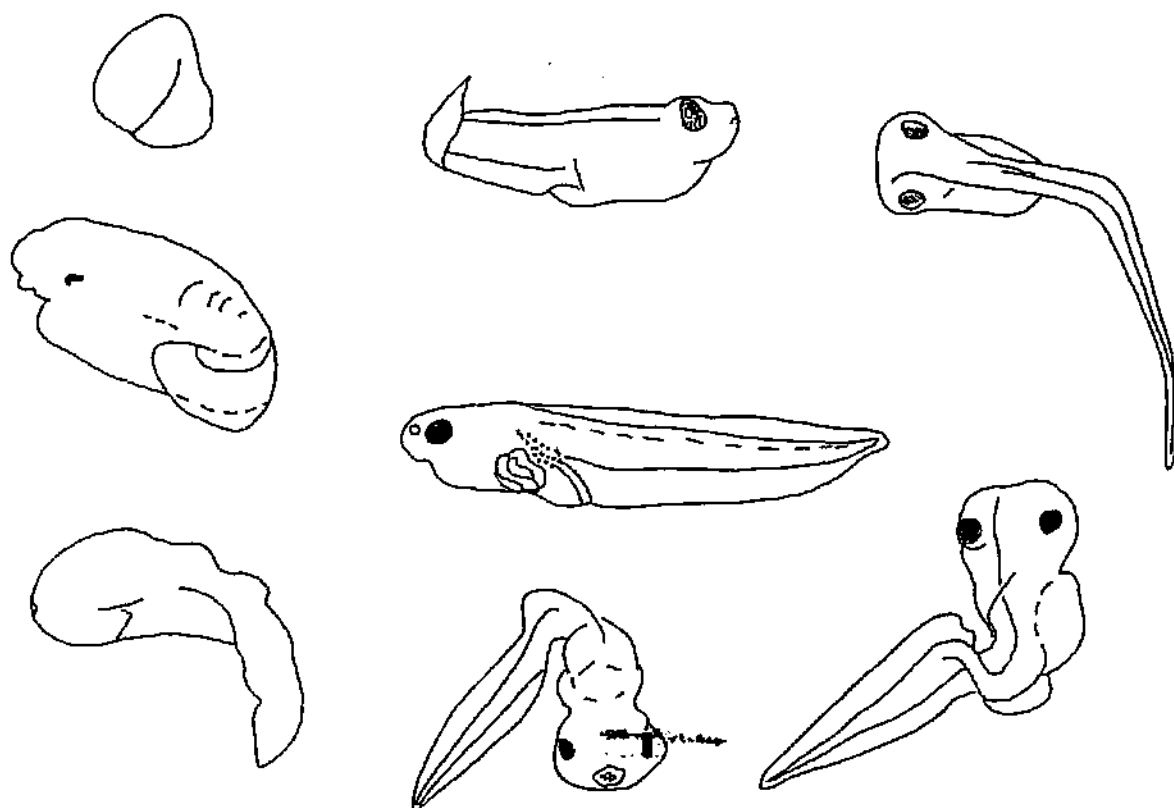


Figure 75. Some abnormalities associated with deltamethrin. The sketches are not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical abnormalities include bent or twisted tails, and a failure of the early embryo to develop.

5.4.4. *Dichlorvos*

5.4.4.1. Malformations

Some abnormalities associated with tadpole development in dichlorvos are illustrated in fig 76.

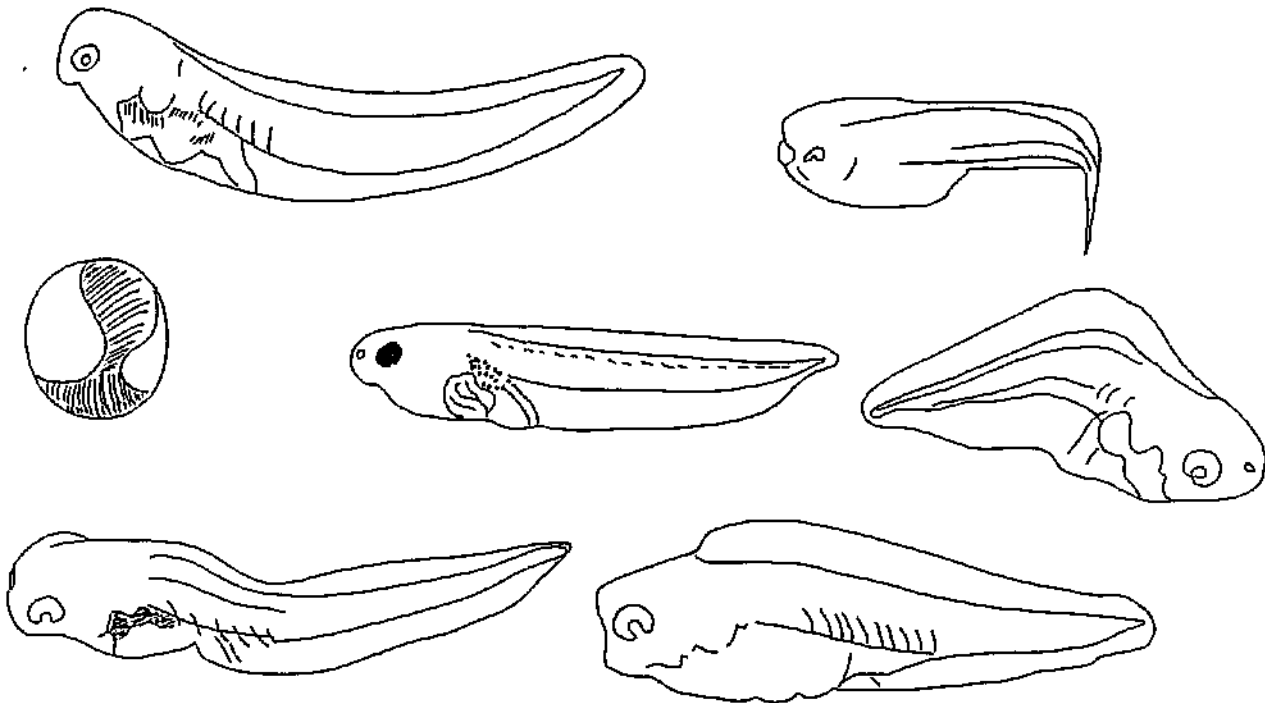


Figure 76. Some abnormalities associated with tadpole development in dichlorvos. Sketches not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical malformations include bent tails, edema, partial eye development and head shape.

5.4.5. Fenthion

5.4.5.1. Malformations

Some typical developmental abnormalities are illustrated in fig 77.

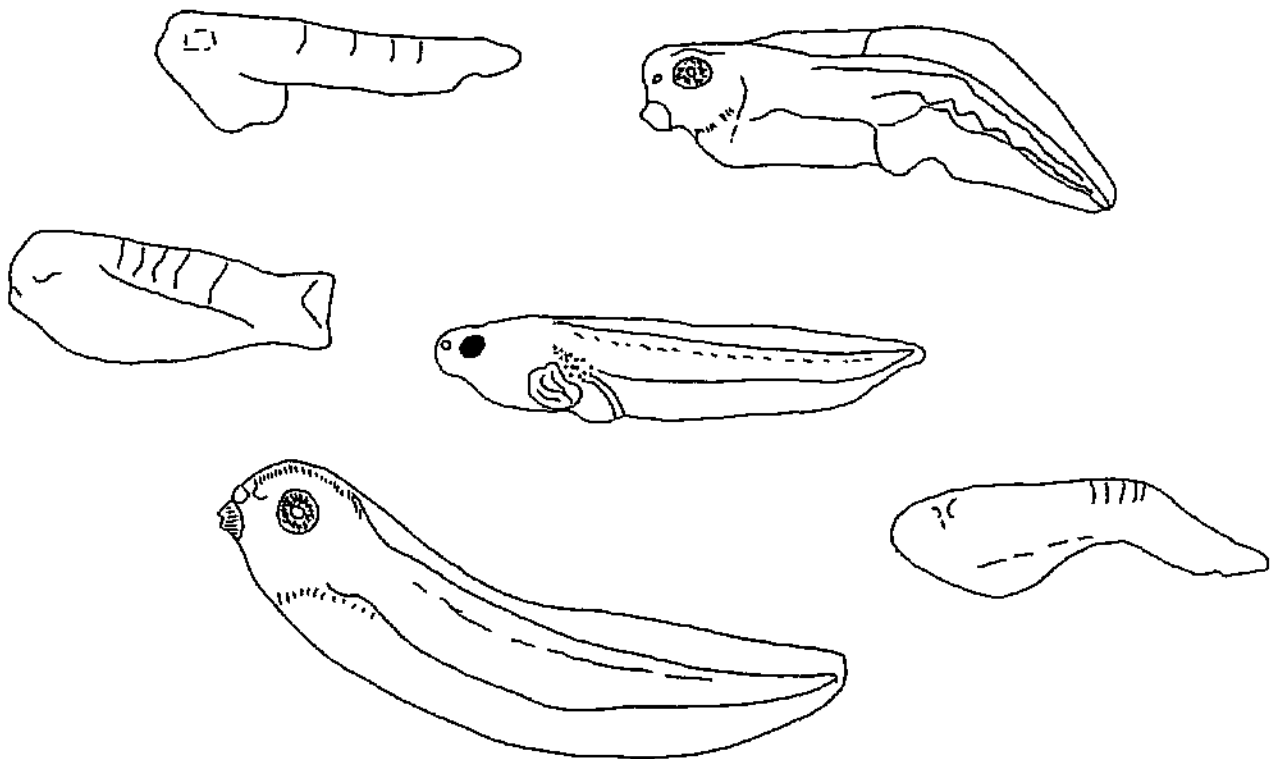


Figure 77. Some developmental abnormalities of *Xenopus* tadpoles associated with fenthion. The sketches are not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical malformations include the failure of the head to develop, corrugated tails, and arched tails.

5.4.6. Imidacloprid

5.4.6.1. Malformations

Some developmental abnormalities associated with imidacloprid are illustrated in fig 78.

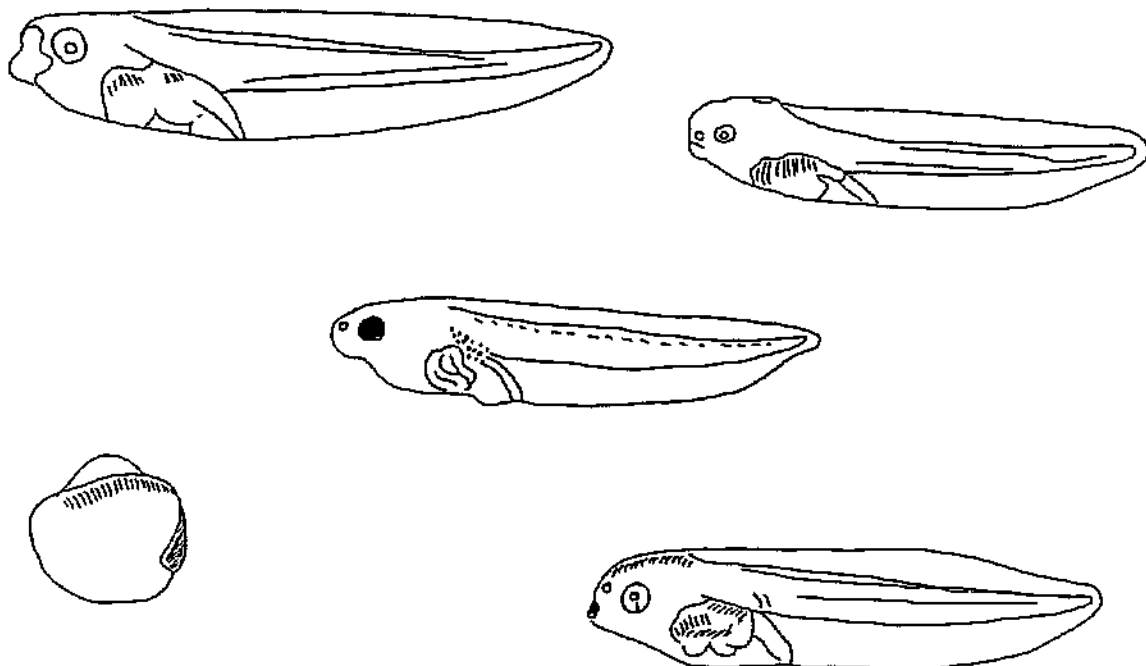


Figure 78. Some developmental abnormalities associated with imidacloprid. The sketches are not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical malformations include inhibited egg development, a failure of the mouth to develop, and lack of pigment in the eye.

5.4.7. *Isazofos*

5.4.7.1. Malformations

Some developmental abnormalities associated with isazophos are illustrated in fig 79.

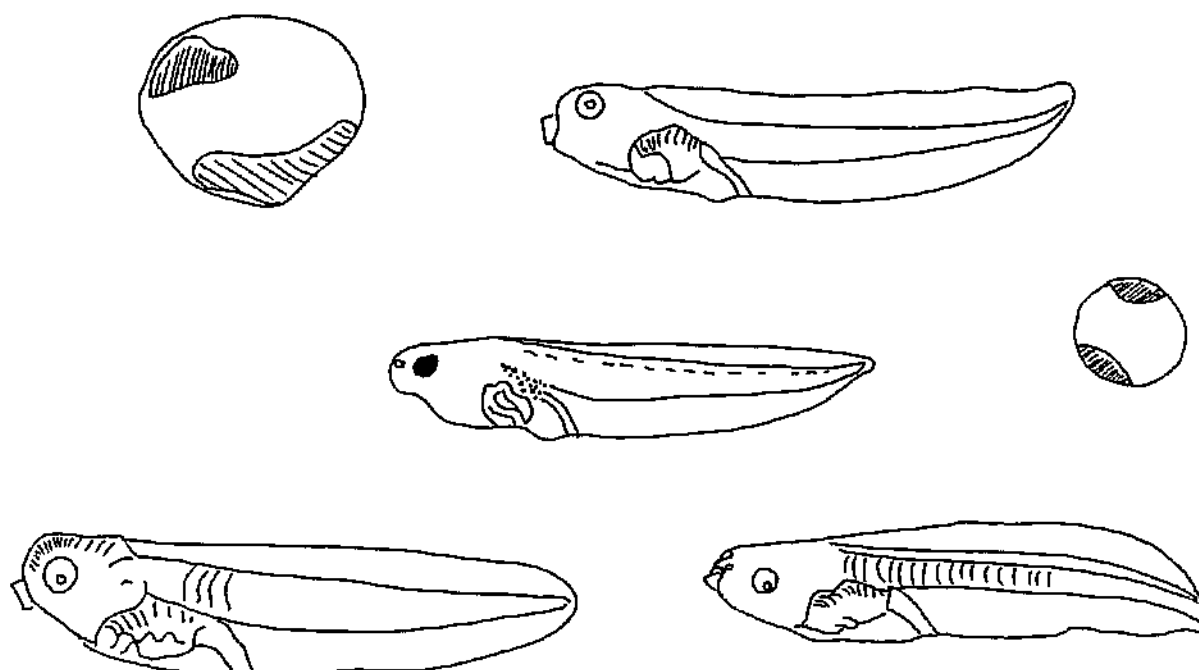


Figure 79: Some abnormalities associated with isazophos. The sketches are not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical abnormalities include lack of eye pigment, tail bent up or down, and mis-shapen head.

5.4.8. Mancozeb

5.4.8.1. Malformations

Some malformations associated with tadpole development in mancozeb are illustrated in fig 80.

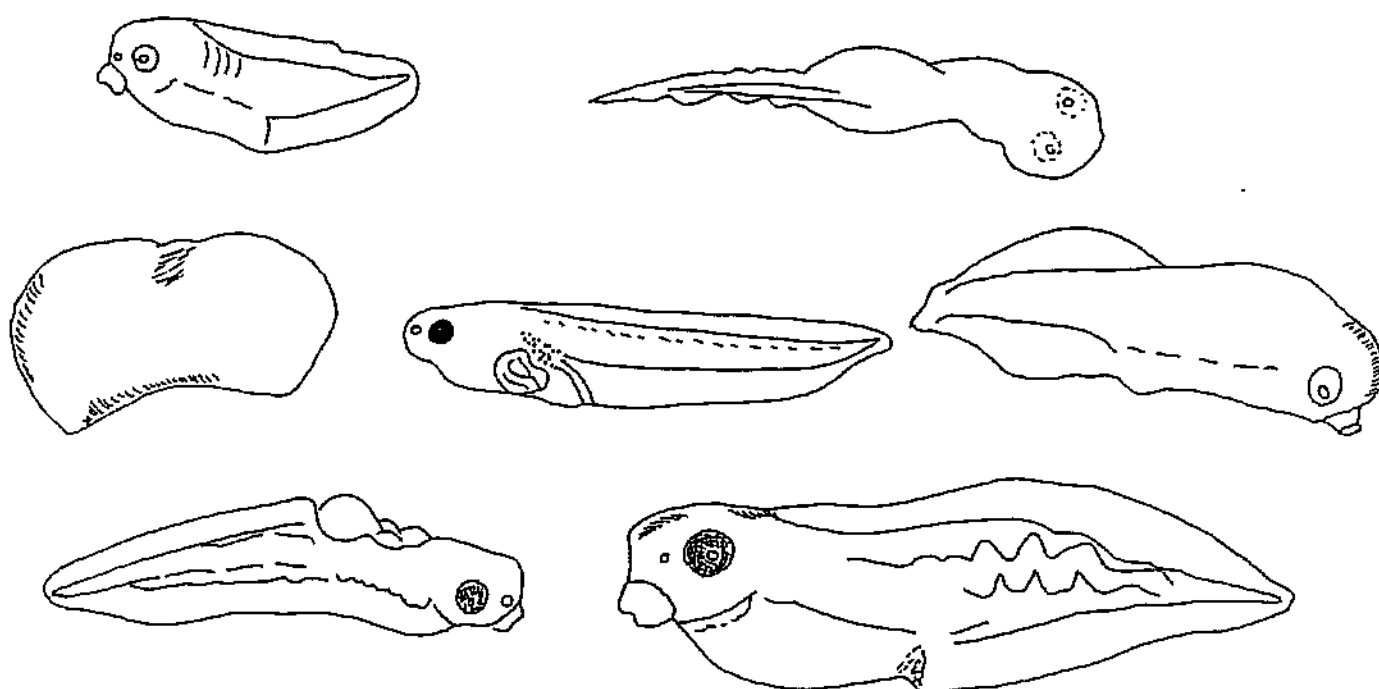


Figure 80. Illustrations of some developmental abnormalities associated with mancozeb. The sketches are not to scale. A control tadpole is in the centre. Typical malformations include edema, lack of tail development, corrugated tail, and a gap in the vertebral column.

5.4.9. Simazine

The herbicide simazine was found to only have a slight effect on tadpoles, when tested at a concentration 10 times more than normal applications. For the purposes of this base-line study, I regard simazine as harmless to *Xenopus* tadpoles.

6. DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Teratogenic Index

TI = LC50/EC50. This is a measure of developmental hazard. Values higher than 1.5 signify a greater potential for embryos to be malformed in the absence of significant embryo mortality. The values for TI in this study range from 1.74 (moderately hazardous) to 2896 (extremely hazardous).

Tadpole sensitivity values are not included in the information supplied with these pesticides, but this study shows that tadpoles are very sensitive.

6.2. Comparison with literature values for tadpoles

Table 6 summarizes the measured concentrations at which tadpoles show sensitivity (see literature review for sources).

Table 6. Summary of literature LC50 values

Pesticide	Taxon	LC50 (mg/l)
Carbamate	Xenopus	0.02-0.14 (9 weeks)
Fenthion	Xenopus	8 sensitive
Fenthion	Xenopus	2.5 paralysis
Triclopyr	Xenopus	2.4 sensitive
Malathion	Bufo	47.3 slow develop.
Malathion	Bufo	0.47 no effect
Esfenvalerate	Xenopus	LC50 mg/l
Esfenvalerate	Xenopus	1.3 low activity
Dieldrin	Xenopus	LC50 40.4-49.5
Dieldrin	Rana catesbeiana	LC50 8.7-30.3
Dieldrin	Rana pipiens	LC50 71.3
Guthion	Xenopus	LC50 2.94
Nitrite	Xenopus	LC50 13.9-39.3

6.3. Realization of objectives

The objectives of the research were:

- 1) To determine the diversity of tadpoles in the major catchments in South Africa.
- 2) To provide a user-friendly method of identification of tadpoles.
- 3) To place tadpole collections in a major museum, from which working reference collections can be drawn.
- 5) To determine the sensitivities of certain tadpoles to pollutants like heavy metals and agricultural chemicals.

These objectives have all been met, except that the laboratory study was confined to agricultural pesticides, as heavy metals have been examined in other countries, and those results are applicable here.

6.4. Contribution to the field

This study has demonstrated that it is both feasible and possible to use *Xenopus* tadpoles in laboratory studies of the effects of pesticides. The tadpoles are available during the season when water is flowing into streams and rivers from agricultural land.

Monitoring can be done either using natural populations of tadpoles, or by introducing free-living or captive populations into target drainages. Similar studies have been successfully carried out in ponds in fruit-growing areas of eastern Canada (Harris, pers com.)

Besides the immediate effect observed when tadpoles are killed or prevented from developing, there is the potential for genetic damage, either directly to the DNA, or through serious reduction in the genetic variation of a population, by pollution from agrichemicals.

6.5. Future research

It is suggested that this research area has shown the potential for low-tech monitoring. The next phase should include a study over a year or more of caged tadpoles in a target river, in order to determine if the "natural" flow of pesticides can be detected. This could be combined with further FETAX studies of the pesticides actually in use in the area.

The broad survey of tadpole availability completed in the present study, should be extended to detailed studies of a few target drainages, to cover both the species and seasonality, and also the overlap of species spatially and temporally.

It is important that pairs of chemicals that might occur in drainages at the same time be tested for synergistic activity. The carriers of herbicides need to be tested as well, as there is clear evidence that these may be more harmful to animals than the active compounds.

6.6. Recommendations

The work reported on here, and the recommendations that follow, should be of interest to the scientific community, water management authorities, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the agri-industry and small farmers.

6.6.1 Recommendation 1.

That tadpoles be recognized as important, endangered and useful components of drainages, and that further research be supported.

6.6.2 Recommendation 2

That the present study be followed up by a long term experiment using caged tadpoles in a drainage with significant potential for agricultural pollution.

6.6.3 Recommendation 3

That the tadpole key and drawings be made available to others wishing to make use of this approach.

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