

Newt Eggs and Larvae

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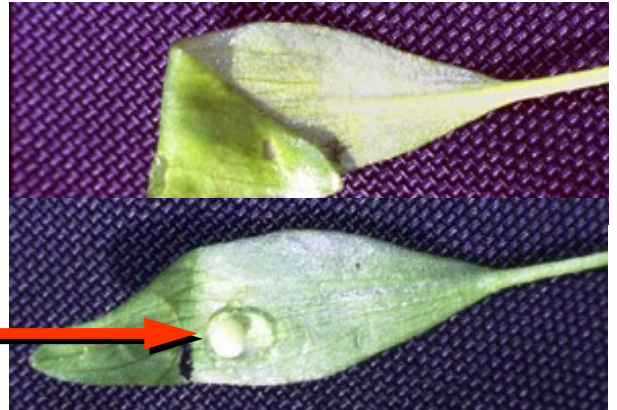


Newt eggs

Newt eggs are usually wrapped, singly, in vegetation. Leaves folded around great crested newt eggs are particularly conspicuous. To identify, unfold the leaf. Identification of undeveloped eggs is easiest.



Great crested newt eggs are white, sometimes with a tint of green or orange.

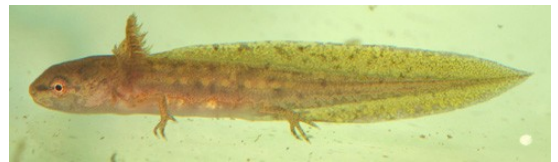
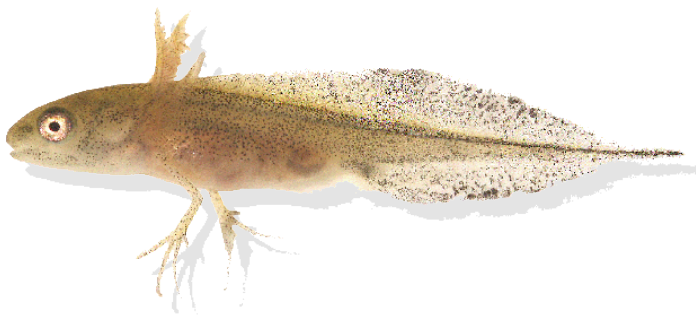


Eggs of smooth and palmate newts cannot be distinguished by eye, but they are smaller than great crested newt eggs and are grey or beige when newly laid.



Several great crested newt eggs folded into a single blade of flote grass, to give a concertina effect.

Newt larvae Examine well-developed larvae (late May to July, or to August for great crested newts).



Great crested newt larvae (above) have long toes and blotches of dark pigmentation on tail fins. Grow to approximately 5 cm.

Palmate and smooth newt larvae (above) are indistinguishable in the field—but do not have the long toes or spotted tail fins of great crested newt larvae. Grow to approximately 3 cm.

Young newts usually leave the water in late summer or autumn, although sometimes they remain as larvae over the winter (smooth newt right).



Further information Howard Inns (2009). *Britain's Reptiles and Amphibians*. WILDGuides.

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