emergence of disease: emergence may be transient, catastrophic, or persistent with recurrent mortality events. Despite a number of populations suffering from infection year-on-year, other populations bounced-back from mass-mortality events. This suggests that some populations of frogs may have some form of immunity to ranaviral infection.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the disease was particularly associated with the southeast of England. In recent years new 'pockets' of diseases have turned up in Lancashire, Yorkshire and along the south coast.

Comparable uninfected populations (n=16) showed no change in population size over the same time period. Regressions showed that larger frog populations may be more likely to experience larger declines than smaller populations, and linear models show that percentage population size changes were significantly correlated with disease status, but that habitat age had no significant effect on population size change. The results are the first evidence of long-term localized population declines of an amphibian species which appear to be best explained by the presence of *Ranavirus* infection.


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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On behalf of the British Herpetological Society the Editor wishes to thank the following reviewers, authors and observers who have greatly enhanced the content of the 2010 volume:

Tim Aplin  
Colin Bailey  
John Baker  
Bill Belzer  
Charles R. Bursey  
Micheal S. Caldwell  
Stuart Chapman  
Miles D. Davis  
Vladimir Dinets  
S.R. Ganesh  
Chris Gleed-Owen  
Stephen R. Goldberg  
Paul B.C. Grant  
Rowland Griffin  
Richard A. Griffiths  
Michelle Haines  

Rahbet Haskane  
Anne Leonard  
Owen J.J. Lewis  
Alex Ramsay  
Chris Reading  
Mario Garcia  
Trevor Rose  
Allen Salzberg  
Sue Seibert  
Mark O'Shea  
Emanuel Teixeira da Silva  
Ben Tapley  
Farhang Torki  
Simon Townsend  
Laurie J. Vitt  
Mark Wright