

Natural History Notes

BUFOTES BOULENGERI (African Green Toad): NEW REPRODUCTIVE POPULATION IN TUNISIA. To date, extensive data on the amphibians of Tunisia are available in Sicilia et al. (2009), with six species of anurans: *Discoglossus pictus* Otth, 1837; *Bufo spinosus* (Daudin, 1803); *Amietophrynus mauritanicus* (Schlegel, 1841); *Bufoles boulengeri* (Lataste, 1879); *Hyla meridionalis* Boettger, 1874 and *Pelophylax saharicus* (Boulenger in Hartert, 1913). The African green toad, *Bufoles boulengeri* (Lataste, 1879) is a species distributed in North Africa, from western Morocco to eastern Egypt (Nabil et al., 2011; Stöck et al., 2006, 2008). This species has been considered for many years as *Bufo viridis* Laurenti, 1768 (Beukema et al., 2013; Bons & Geniez, 1996; Geniez et al. 2004; Schleich et al. 1996).

B. boulengeri prefers open landscapes, is very resistant to salinity and undergoes opportunistic reproductive phenology in ephemeral humid habitats, in order to adjust to the scarce water resources in desert conditions (Beukema et al., 2013; Filippi et al., 2011). This note reports on a newly discovered population at sea level, at a beach on the coastline south of the town of Hammamet, in the northeast region of Tunisia (36° 21' 33" N and 10° 31' 59" E). During our field survey of 6 to 9 September 2008 a high density of *B. boulengeri* was observed in the wet grass in the resorts of Hammamet. The specimens were photographed at night (Fig. 1). The presence of only adults near the beach in late summer supports the idea of a second reproductive phase in Tunisia, as advocated by Filippi et al. (2011).

The population trends and dynamics of *B. boulengeri* in Tunisia are unknown though this species is assessed as Least Concern (LC) by IUCN. The main threat over much of the range appears to be the loss of breeding habitats. Although the species is locally abundant to the south of Hammamet, the extensive construction of buildings along the coastline could negatively affect population persistence. Further surveys along the entire coastline of the Gulf of Hammamet are recommended.



Figure 1. *B. boulengeri* gathered on 8 September, at 19 UTC.

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