

TRITURUS VULGARIS (Smooth Newt); RECENT RECORDS OF NEOTONY. After many years of newt watching I was finally rewarded with my first encounter with a fully neotonous and albinistic adult Smooth Newt. It was found in a large garden pond at Bampton Grange (NY51), Cumbria, UK, in April 2000. Two similar individuals were caught in bottle traps set by John Read in a ditch near Whitehaven in West Cumbria, also in the Spring of 2000.

I have twice encountered partially neotonous adult Smooth Newts in 1998 at Chigwell in Essex, and between 1989 and 1991 in the fore-dunes near Birkdale, Merseyside. Both sites were small deep ponds and several adults with partially developed gills were found at each.

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