



<p>WORKING PROJECT TITLE</p>	<p>Tadpole wars: the impact of invading Guttural toad larvae on Endangered Western Leopard toads</p>
<p>CORE TEAM MEMBER</p>	<p>John Measey</p>
<p>ACADEMIC LEVEL OF THE PROJECT</p>	<p>MSc</p>
<p>PROJECT BACKGROUND</p>	<p>The Guttural toad, <i>Sclerophrys gutturalis</i>, was first sighted in Constantia, a peri-urban area of Cape Town in 2000. Since then, the species has expanded over this and neighbouring suburbs. There is evidence that the Guttural toad is shifting its breeding times earlier in the year (Vimercati et al 2019) so that it may coincide with a local congener. Conservationists cite the potential impact on the native IUCN Endangered Western Leopard toad, <i>Sclerophrys pantherina</i>, whose range the Guttural toad has already entered. However, no empirical evidence has emerged of this impact.</p> <p>This project seeks to quantify the effects of the interaction between tadpoles of the two species in an experimental enclosure.</p> <p>The project will require a student who has attention to detail for small morphological changes, animal husbandry and the ability to manage a large experiment.</p>



FURTHER READING

Vimercati, G et al. 2019. Invasive toads adopt marked capital breeding when introduced to a cooler, more seasonal environment. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biolinnean/blz119>

Telford, N. et al. 2019 Origin of invasive populations of the Guttural toad *Sclerophrys gutturalis* *Herpetological Conservation & Biology*. 14(2):380-392

Measey, J. et al. 2017 Invasive amphibians in southern Africa: a review of invasion pathways. *Bothalia-African Biodiversity & Conservation* 47(2), a2117. doi:10.4102/abc.v47i2.2117

KEY CONTACTS

John Measey
c: 021 808 2385
e: jmeasey@sun.ac.za

James Baxter-Gilbert
c: 082 407 0956
e: jx_baxtergilbert@laurentian.ca

CONTACT DETAILS OF CORE TEAM MEMBER

John Measey c: 021 808 2385 e: jmeasey@sun.ac.za