

Bullfrog distribution in Wallonia and habitat preferences








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Plan



- Distribution in Wallonia
- Habitat
 - Preferences
 - Use
 - Movements
- About my thesis

Pecrot



- Fishing pond with swamp
- Breeding site
- In Dyle valley
- Close to Grootbroek pond in Vlaanderen
- First report in 2006



Bousval



- Fishing pond
- In Dyle valley
- Breeding site
- First report only in 2007




Ransart



- Temporary pool
- Breeding site unknown
- First report in may 2005

Habitat preferences



- Bullfrogs prefer warm lentic habitats with a lot of emergent and riparian vegetation
 - lakes, large ponds, bays of large rivers, marshes
- Need shallow and warm water for reproduction success
- Hibernation under the mud, banks or in leaf litter if there is a wooded zone near the pond
- More broadly, the species may be found in pools, ditches, slow rivers, gravel yards
- Take advantage from human modification of land
 - Farm ponds, recreational ponds, reservoirs, canals...

Habitat use



- Bullfrogs are mostly aquatic the whole season
- Use importance:
 - 1 water
 - 2 Hydrohelophytes
 - 3 fallow land
- Habitat avoided:
 - 1 grassland
 - 2 urban zone
 - 3 crops
- Other studies are needed for better precision

Movements



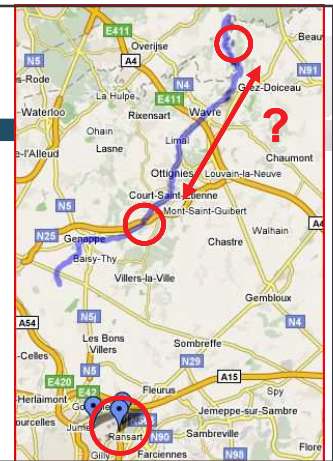
- Seem to be numerous during a month between hibernation and the breeding period to seek vegetation shelter and food
- Usually, adult bullfrogs stay a few meters close to the pond during summer
- Sometimes, adults or more often juvenils, migrate a distance of 1,5 km in average and as a maximum of 4 km
- They use ditches, rivers and valleys during warm and rainy days for its propagation
- Not enough evidence for a general homing behavior

My thesis



- Characterization and comparaison of the bullfrog habitat
 - Bullfrog preference and avoidance in Belgium
 - Hope for management?
- Presence/absence study
 - Call survey and replay of recorded call
 - Best way to find tadpoles
 - Critics about prospection techniques
 - Bullfrog distribution in Wallonia
- A small study about the diet of the bullfrog in Belgium

- Habitat characterisation around Pécrot, Bousval and Ransart
- Is there a presence of bullfrogs along the Dyle between Pécrot and Bousval?



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