# Practical solutions for detecting and responding to various pathogens'outbreaks

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Reptile Amphibian Fish Conservation Netherlands

#### **Netherlands**



B. salamandrivorans



Ranavirus



#### **Netherlands**

#### **Key in disease management**



Eyes in the field



Standardized surveillance





#### **Netherlands**

#### Key in disease management



Eyes in the field



Science







Standardized surveillance





- **2010**
- First outbreak in National Park
- > 1000 recently metamorphosed water frogs and a dozen smooth newts
- Volunteers and staff from the visitors' centre





Follow up the outbreak, how will it spread over the NP?



- Ranavirus was already present in the entire NP
- Infecting a broad host range
  (smooth newt, crested newt, common toad, water frogs)
- No mass mortality events
- Continuous presence of dead, moribund and ranavirussymptomatic amphibians in the presence of nonsymptomatic amphibians



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  (smooth newt, crested newt, common toad, water frogs)
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- So, populations persist, but their long-term persistence could be compromised



- Ranavirus outbreak in isolated pond in north of NL
- Common spadefoot (*Pelobates fuscus*)
- Habitat Directive IV; Bern Convention III
- One of rarest amphibian species in NL



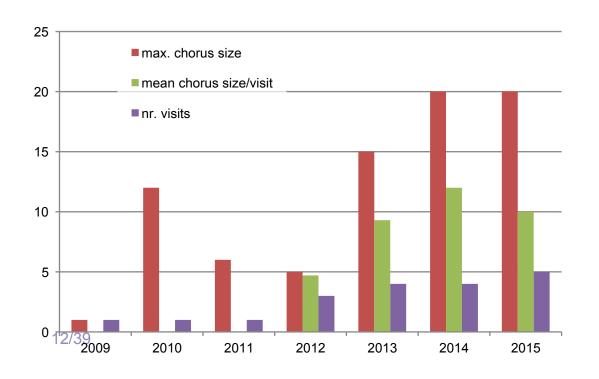
- Pond; high recreational value
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012: mass mortality of recently metamorphosed larvae







- 2012: mass mortality event over approx. 3 weeks
- 2013: no report of dead toads
- 2014: single ranavirus+ smooth newt
- 2015: multiple mass mortality events





#### My point is

- Despite several mass mortality events, there's no obvious decrease in the number of adult toads
- Without proper monitoring and the reports of volunteers this would have gone unnoticed
- This population could be at threat by outbreaks of the pathogen and stochastic events





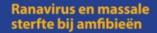








Where else in NL?



onder vissen, reptielen en amfibieën kunnen veroorzaken. In 2010 is er een ranavirusinfectie ontdekt in Nederland. dat in sommige wateren geleid tot massale sterfte van kikkers en sterft het grootste deel van de lokale populatie.

Na de massale sterfte treedt er soms herstel op van de populatie en is het aantal dieren na enkele jaren weer hetzelfde als voor-

#### Hoe herkent u ranavirus

Twee duidelijke symptomen zijn:

Massale sterfte
 Bloedingen

Sterfte als gevolg van ranavirus is gevonden in een heel breed











#### Hoe voorkom ik verdere verspreiding ranavirus

#### Wat kan ik doen?

Ziet u onverklaarbare sterfte van amfibieën, neemt u dan contact op met DWHC (www.dwhc.nl) of met RAVON (www.ravon.nl). Mogelijk kunnen nog enkele dieren op doodsoorzaak onderzocht worden. Wij vragen u dan ook de situatie goed te documenteren door veel foto's te maken en te beschrijven wat u ziet. Vergeet niet de datum te noteren.

#### Mensen verspreiden het ranavirus

Mensen kunnen het virus over grote afstanden verplaatsen. Dit gebeurt via schoenen, laarzen en andere materialen (zoals schepnet), die in contact met besmet water zijn geweest. Was en ontsmet daarom na ieder veldbezoek uw schoeisel en materiaal. Meer informatie (hygiëneprotocol) is beschikbaar op de website van RAWON.

RAV ON RAV





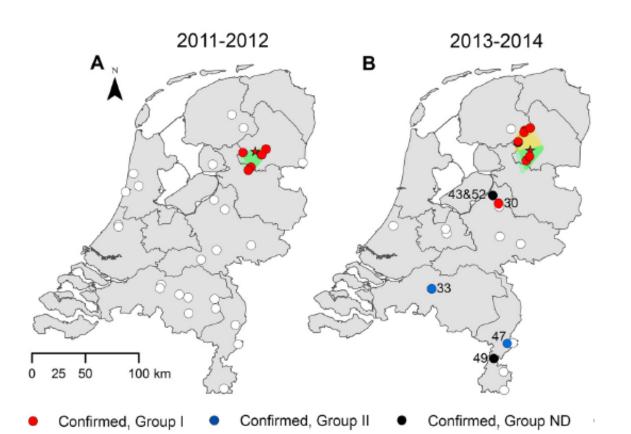








Where else in NL?



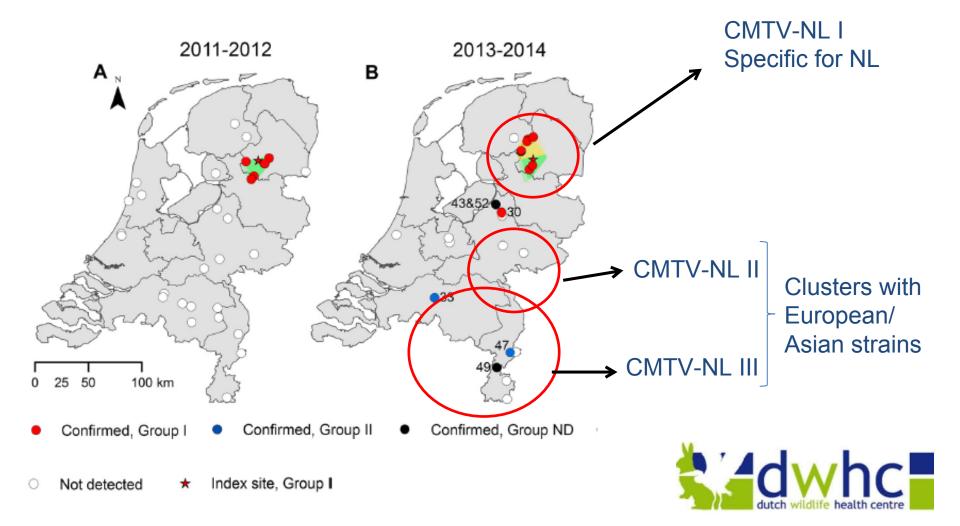
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Where else in NL?



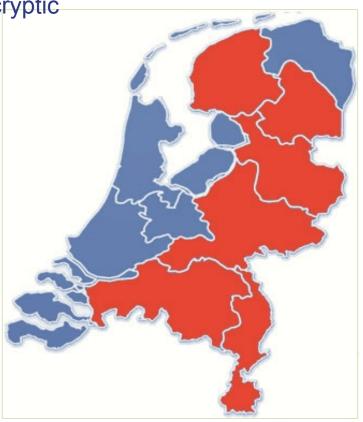
#### Summarizing

- The presence of ranavirus in NL is relatively recent
- We have three strains that vary in pathogenicity

Ranavirus induced mortality may be cryptic

- Many eyes needed
- Surveillance important
- Link with science is vital



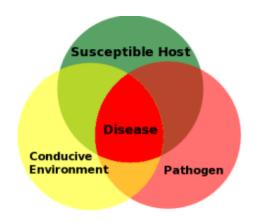




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- Amphibian chytridiomycosis
- Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd)
- population declines and extinctions across several continents
  - but the effects are not obvious
  - strong context dependency on outcome of interaction between host and pathogen







Environmental Determinants Promote Bd Endemism

Previously in the Netherlands and Belgium.....

#### Conservation Biology

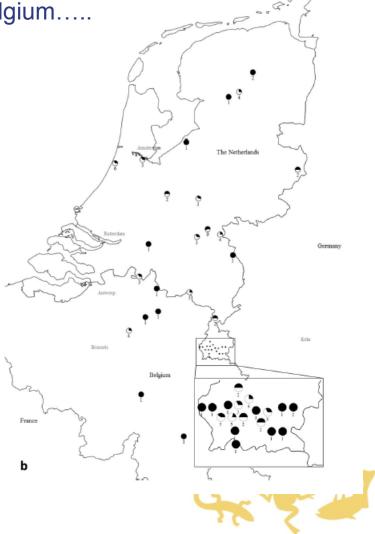


Contributed Paper

# Environmental Determinants of Recent Endemism of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* Infections in Amphibian Assemblages in the Absence of Disease Outbreaks

ANNEMARIEKE SPITZEN-VAN DER SLUIJS,\*† AN MARTEL,† CASPAR A. HALLMANN,‡§ WILBERT BOSMAN,\* TRENTON W. J. GARNER,¶ PASCALE VAN ROOIJ,† ROBERT JOORIS,\*\* FREDDY HAESEBROUCK,† AND FRANK PASMANS†





How – and by what mechanisms – can populations truly coexist with a pathogen?

#### Conservation Biology



Contributed Paper

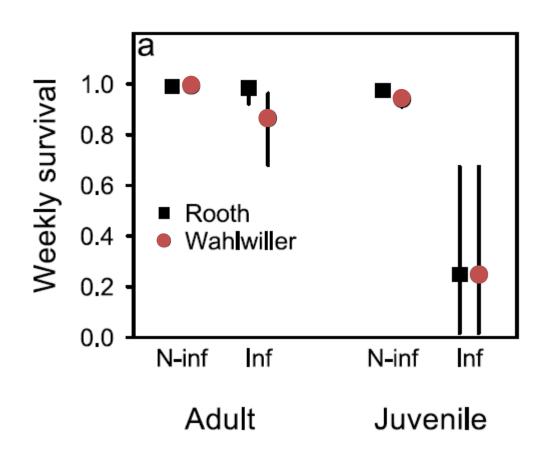
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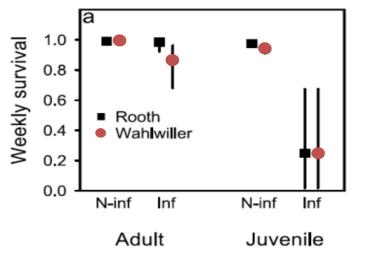


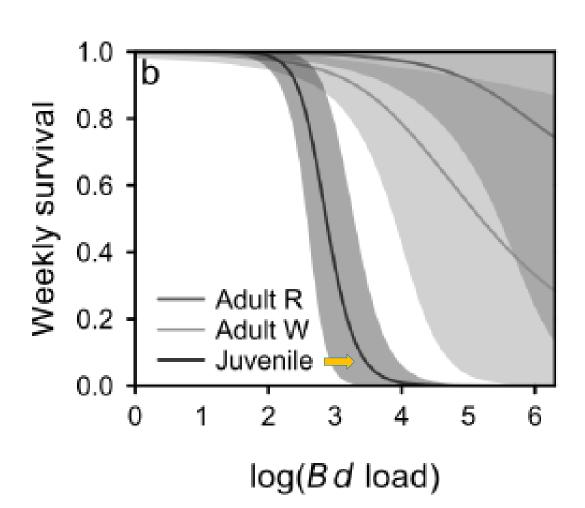




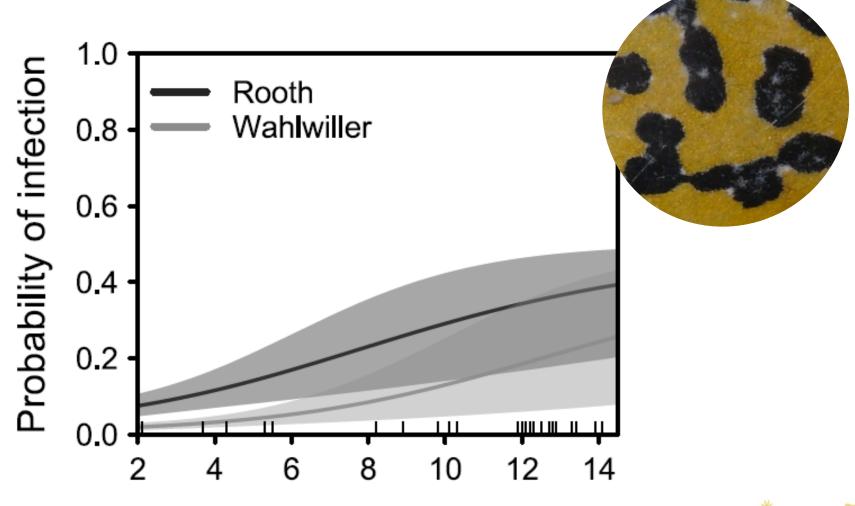






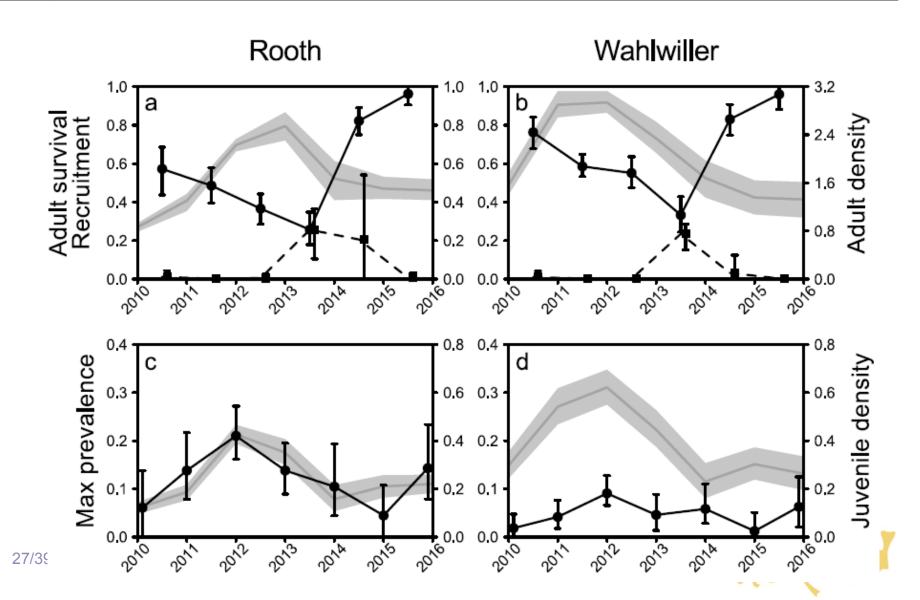


	adults		juveniles	
		Andread and property from the control of the contro		hard an electronical property of the control of the
survival	X	X	X	X
probability becoming infected	X		X	X
probability clearing infection	X		X	G. Mer



Minimum temperature (°C)

G WE



Host and pathogen currently live in co-existence

There is a cost for individual host, but

- environmental mediation
- over dispersed pathogen load
- compensatory recruitment



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Balance can be disturbed by

- increasing temperatures
- reduced possibilities reproduction



- Despite constant population sizes of our *Bombina* populations
- Bd does incur an actual cost to its amphibian host
- Over-dispersion, compensatory recruitment and environmental mediation currently stabilize disease dynamics
- Importance of long-term standardized surveillance and appropriate habitat management







- Intensively monitored since 1997
- Current decline of the population fire salamanders still is 99.9%
- No exact trend of alpine newts in the Bunderbos area







- Monitoring started at novel site in October 2013
- We fear the collapse of this population

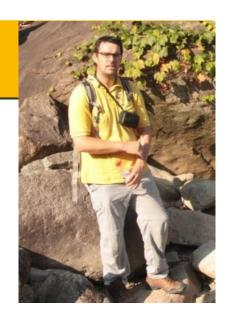


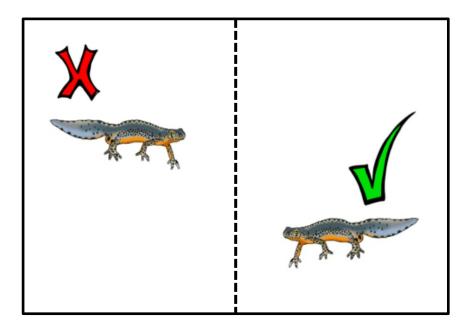
- Gene flow between this new site and Bunderbos
- Genetically identical with Bunderbos salamanders
- No Bsal detected.

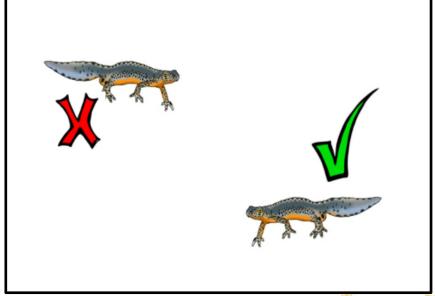




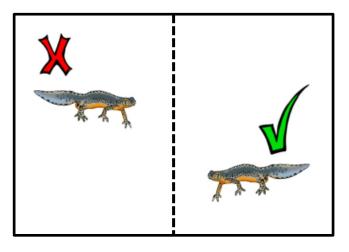
- Why is there no Bsal at this novel site?
- Lab experiment with alpine newts

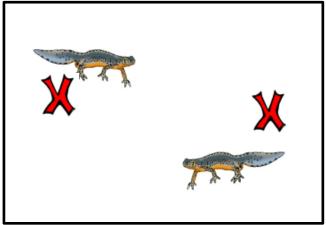








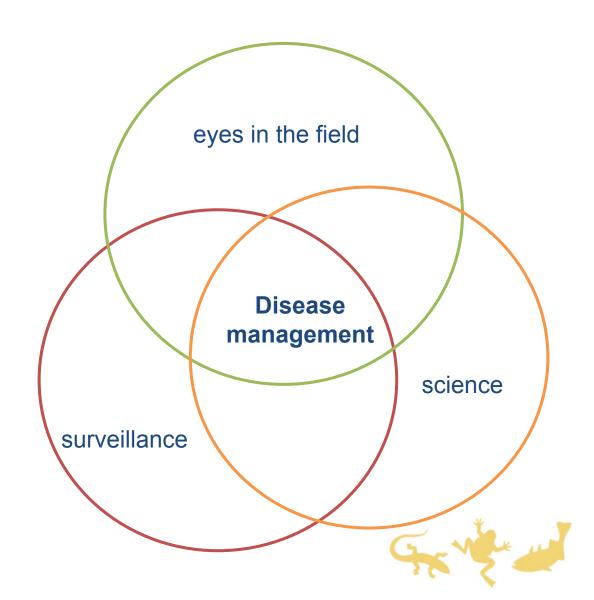




- No physical contact? No Bsal
- Isolation of susceptible populations can be a feasible tool to prevent pathogen transmission



So also for Bsal



#### **Summarizing**

## Practical solutions for detecting and responding to various pathogens' outbreaks

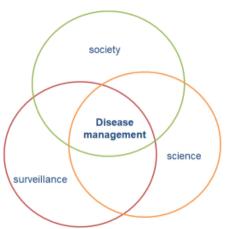
- Vigilance of the public, value of a network
- Importance of long-term standardized monitoring and surveillance
- Importance of proper habitat management
- Strong link/interaction with scientific work



### Summarizing

# Practical solutions for detecting and responding to various pathogens' outbreaks

- Science
- Surveillance
- Society















## Thank you

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