

# Asian black spined toad

Prohibited invasive animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



Photo courtesy L Shyamal (Wikimedia Commons)

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed, transport or sell Asian black spined toads in Queensland.
- Colour ranges but commonly yellow-brown marked with dark red-brown streaks and spots.
- Back is covered with round black warts, capped with tiny dark spines.
- Relative and same pest potential as the cane toad (*Rhinella marina* syn. *Bufo marinus*).
- Stowaway on shipments, a prolific breeder and can carry new diseases into Australia.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

## Description

The Asian black spined toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*) is a medium-sized toad relatively small head and short hind limbs, up to 9 cm length, although females may grow up to 15 cm. Colour various shades of grey, brown, or red, dorsal surface has warts tipped with black. Underside uniform dirty white, speckled with light brown on chin and throat. Juvenile toads lack warts. The head has elevated bony ridges, with long dark crests that border the eyelids and run down on either side of the eye. Another thicker crest runs from the eye to the parotoid gland (this gland releases toxic skin secretions). In breeding males, the throat is light orange or yellow, and they develop cornified pads on the inner side of the first and second fingers.

## Biosecurity risk

The Asian black spined toad is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland in 13 25 23.

Asian black spined toads are very adaptable and survive in a wide range of habitats. They are cousin to the cane toad, with impacts comparable to the cane toad. Females can produce 40,000 eggs per clutch and they are poisonous if eaten. Asian black spined toads have become a pest animal problem overseas and, if naturalised in Queensland, could spread disease to our native frogs, compete with our native frogs for food and poison native birds and mammals.

## What should I do?

If you think you have seen an Asian black spined toad report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Asian black spined toad from escaping.

## More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

