

Asian spined toad

Call Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23 if you see this species



Photo courtesy L Shyamal (Wikimedia Commons)

Asian spined toad (*Bufo melanostictus*)

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Asian 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 (*Bufo marinus*).
- Stowaway on shipments, a prolific breeder and can carry new diseases into Australia.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

The Asian spined toad 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.

Pest risk

The Asian 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 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 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 spined toad, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Asian spined toad from escaping.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

