EICAT profile: *Lithobates catesbeianus*

**MO (Moderate)** Lithobates catesbeianus

Date assessed: 2020-09-01
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Eicat category: MO (Moderate)

Justification for EICAT assessment

Several studies have shown that the presence of Lithobates catesbeianus tadpoles replaced or reduced the abundance of local tadpoles through competition (Kupferberg, 1997; Laufer et al., 2008; Gobel et al., 2019). The presence of L. catesbeianus was also shown to reduce the developmental stage and size, and ultimately fitness, of local tadpoles (Hale et al., 2017). The presence of L. catesbeianus adults and tadpoles had a significant impact on the growth, development, and survival of R. aurora (D'Amore et al., 2009). Evidence was found that all stages (tadpoles, postmetamorphs, juveniles, and adults) of L. catesbeianus preyed on local amphibians (Hossack et al., 2017) and the presence of adult L. catesbeianus resulted in a significant decrease of local frog abundance (Liu et al., 2015).
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**Confidence rating**: Low

**Mechanism(s) of maximum impact**: Predation; Competition

**Countries of most severe impact**: U.S.A.; Uruguay; China

**Description of impact**: *L. catesbeianus* has a significant negative effect on the size, developmental stage, and overall survival of native frogs. It competes with native tadpoles and can replace all native tadpoles in certain areas. All developmental stages were shown to prey on native fauna, leading to a reduction in the abundance of native fauna.

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**EICAT authority**

**Recommended citation**