

# Frog Eggs

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

## Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your order arrives, open the shipping container and, without opening the shipping bags, inspect your eggs. The bags are filled with oxygen, so it is safe to leave the eggs there until tadpoles emerge.

## For Life Cycle Studies

The tadpoles are old enough to release when they begin attaching to the sides of the shipping bag. You will need a small container (glass or plastic) and conditioned tap water or spring water. (See General Guidelines for information on conditioning tap water.) After the eggs have hatched, open the bag and use a dropping pipette to remove the clear jellylike mass left. Then gently pour the shipping water and tadpoles into your small container. Remove slightly less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the shipping water and replace it with conditioned tap water or spring water. Repeat every 15 minutes for an hour. After this acclimatization, transfer the tadpoles into your main container.

## For Development Studies

The eggs can remain in the shipping bag until just before the lab. To avoid missing the early stages, use the eggs as soon as possible. If you must delay, cool the bag to 4 to 10° C (39 to 50° F) to slow development. However, you may get deformed tadpoles and increased mortality from these eggs.

Keep all instruments clean. Rinse glassware thoroughly with hot water followed by a cold-water rinse; air dry. Avoid using glassware that has had contact with chemicals. Use stainless steel instruments; do not use chromium-plated instruments.

Open the bag and place a maximum of 25 to 30 eggs in each culture dish. Add 1 to 2 cm of spring or pond water and observe under a stereomicroscope.

*For information on caring for tadpoles, see our Tadpoles Carolina™ CareSheet.*

## FAQ's

*How long will it take our eggs to hatch?*

Eggs usually hatch within 4 to 10 days.

*What species do we have?*

That depends on what was available at the time of shipment. Refer to any information we sent with your order.

*Why is part of the egg dark and the other part light?*

This difference is seen in early-stage eggs. The lighter part of the egg is the yolk. The darker part, sometimes called the "animal pole," is the developing embryo.

*Our tadpoles aren't moving. They are curled up and some are on the bottom of the bag. Are they dead?*

Many tadpoles assume a comma shape as a normal part of their development. Be patient and you will soon

have active tadpoles.

*We had lots of eggs but only 4 tadpoles hatched. What went wrong?*

For best results, leave the eggs in the shipping bag. Still, having only a few eggs hatch is normal. Mortality of native frog eggs is often extremely high.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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