On 21 August 2013 at 13:50–14:00 hrs, one author (J.N.) watched a Eurasian otter, *Lutra lutra* (Linnaeus, 1758), swimming along the bank of a pond measuring approx. 150 m x 100 m in open land in the western part of the North Jutlandic Island, which is formally the northernmost part of Jutland, Denmark. It is 4–5 km W of Frøstrup (coordinates of locality 57° 04’49” N, 8° 56’10” E, altitude 9 m above sea level). As the otter appeared at the surface, it was eating a newt, which was eventually swallowed. The cropped photo Fig. 1A demonstrates that it is an adult *Triturus cristatus* (Laurenti, 1768). The yellowish line along the lower edge of the tail, which is characteristic of the female of this species, as well as the size, dark coloration and large spotting confirm the identification. In comparison with the size of the otter’s head in Fig. 1B, the total length of the newt has been estimated to approx. 12–15 cm. Afterwards the otter continued searching for food along the bank.

Otters are regularly observed in the pond. On 14 December 2016 an individual was from a distance observed eating 6–8 aquatically hibernating brown frogs (*Rana temporaria* Linnaeus, 1758 or *Rana arvalis* Nilsson, 1842). The pond is inhabited by rich populations of *Lissotriton vulgaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *T. cristatus*. *Triturus cristatus* produces defensive toxic secretions from warts with underlying glands to deter predators. It is a foamy whitish liquid which may also be extruded in the presence of pathogenic microorganisms. A heavy proteinaceous toxin was identified by Jaussi and Kunz (1978). Nevertheless, a number of cases of predation are known. The pike (*Esox lucius* Linnaeus, 1758), snakes, several birds and a few mammals are known to prey upon adult *T. cristatus* though kingfishers have only been observed eating larvae (Gleed-Owen, 1994, 1996; Arntzen, 2003; Rimpp, 2007; Webley, 2007, 2009; Jehle et al., 2011). As to snakes, *Natricis natrix* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Zamenis longissimus* (Laurenti, 1768) have been recorded as predators. Mammalian predators include the polecat (*Mustela putorius* Linnaeus, 1758), shrews, and the wild boar (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, 1758). Additionally, the Eurasian otter has previously once been recorded as predator of *T. cristatus* (Britton et al., 2006): One stomach of 171 otter carcasses from South

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**Figure 1** (A and B). A Eurasian otter has caught a female *Triturus cristatus*. Photos by Jens Nørgaard.
West England contained one adult _T. cristatus_. Our observation is the first case where an otter is caught in the act of ingesting a crested newt. It forms the second record of the Eurasian otter preying upon _T. cristatus_.

In a study from Wales, Parry et al. (2015) recorded remains of _Lissotriton helveticus_ (Razoumovsky, 1789) in several Eurasian otter spraints. Bones were identified in 9% of the spraints (43 of 464). Otters have also been shown to prey on _R. temporaria_ and _Pelophylax lessonae_ (Camerano, 1882) (Forman et al., 2012).

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**References**


