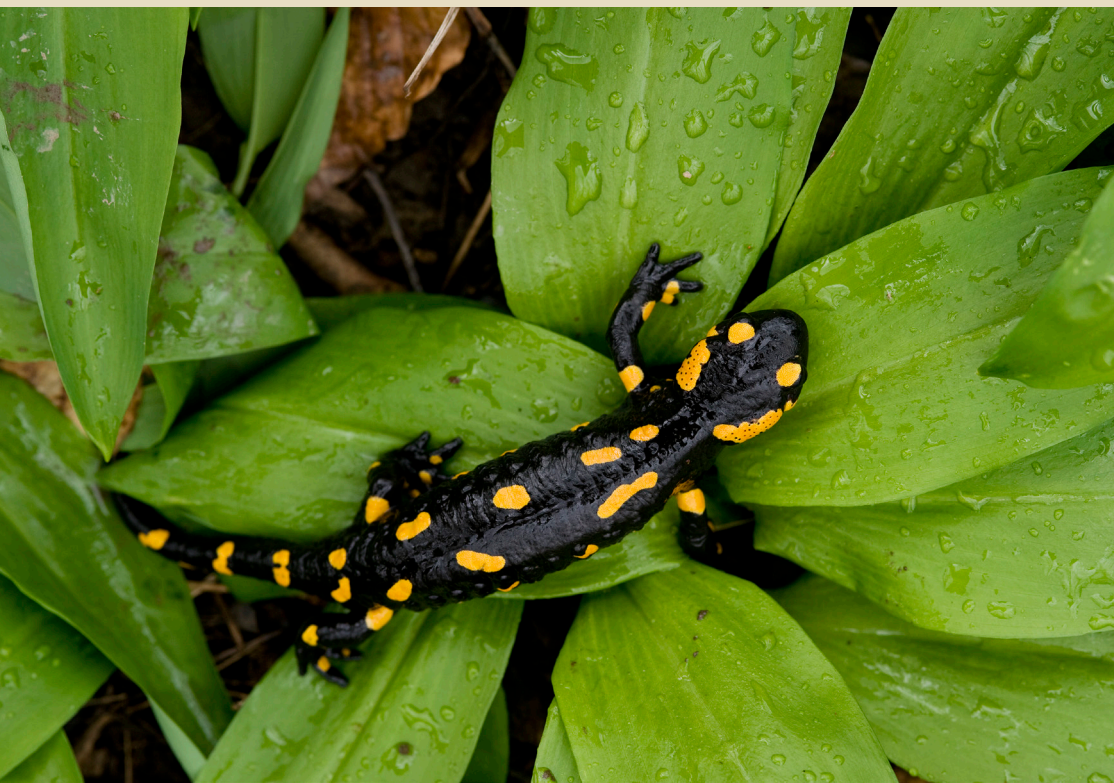


# Salamander fungus *Bsal*

**A deadly threat to  
salamanders and newts**



# A dangerous skin fungus

## The pathogen *Bsal*

The highly infectious, parasitic skin fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, abbreviated as *Bsal*, was first detected in the Netherlands in 2013. This “salamander fungus” has already caused mass mortality events of fire salamanders in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. In the course of globalization, the fungus was most likely introduced from Asia. It is harmless to humans.

**The pathogen poses an existential threat to salamanders and newts in Europe, potentially leading to the extinction of entire populations.**



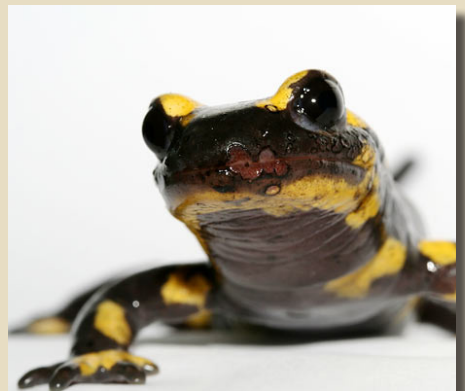
## No detection in Austria so far

Although *Bsal* has not yet been detected in Austria, we have to be alert. Fire salamanders, alpine salamanders, and all native newt species are at risk from this skin fungus. The pathogen can survive in moist soil substrates and water, and can therefore be easily spread. Frogs and toads do not develop the disease but can be transmitters.

**Humans are the most common source of transmission and spread of the fungus!**

## Symptoms

The fungus causes skin lesions, skin erosions and ulcerations in salamanders and newts. The animals suffer from muscle spasms, stop eating and die shortly afterward. The mortality rate is very high in fire salamanders. Other native species are less sensitive but can act as carriers.



# How can I help?

## You find dead salamanders or newts with no visible injuries?

- Take photos!
- Note the location, date, time and the number of dead animals.
- Contact us and provide your contact information (see regional contact persons).

## Clean your shoes and equipment after or before a trip into nature to prevent spreading the fungus!

- Thoroughly remove dirt and leaves from shoes and gear.
- Let shoes and equipment dry completely before your next trip.
- If you're in a hurry, you can quickly disinfect with alcohol or bleach.

## Tell people about the threat and the measures that help protect our salamanders and newts!

## If you keep amphibians in terrariums

- Have your amphibians regularly checked for the fungi *Bd* and *Bsal*.
- Do not dispose wastewater or terrarium materials in your garden or in nature.
- Do not release animals from your terrarium into the wild, even if they are native species.

**This is how you help protect our amphibians!**



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## What should I NOT do?

### Do not catch or relocate newts salamanders, frogs or toads!

Diseases can be spread this way. The animals migrate to their breeding waters in spring and autumn and must not be disturbed.

### Do not collect dead animals!

It is prohibited by law to remove dead or live wild animals.



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# Who should I contact if I find dead salamanders?

## Regional contact persons

### Burgenland

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### Further information:

[www.zoovienna.at](http://www.zoovienna.at)  
[www.herpetozoa.at](http://www.herpetozoa.at)  
[www.bsaleurope.com](http://www.bsaleurope.com)

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