MR (Major)Ambystoma tigrinum

Date assessed	2020-10-22
Year published	2021
Eicat category	MR (Major)
Justification for EICAT assessment	Hybridisation between Ambystoma tigrinum and the endangered native A. californiense occurs naturally and frequently in the impacted region (California), hybrids have replaced the pure native species in Salinas Valley leading to introgressive hybridisation. Some evidence suggests that native A. californiense could potentially recover by removing A. tigrinum. These impacts occur in the extralimital range of A. tigrinum (both species are native to some parts of the United States), but their distributions did not naturally overlap.
Confidence rating	High
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact	Hybridisation
Countries of most severe impact	U.S.A.
Description of impact	Hybridisation - hybrids between Ambystoma californiense and A. tigrinum have replaced the threatened A.a californiensein Salinas Valley, California (USA). Predation - the presence of hybrids between A. californiensee and A. tigrinum reduced survival of Pseudacris regilla and Taricha torosa in California (USA). Transmission of diseases to native species - Subspecies of A. tigrinum (A. tigrinum stebbinsi) is reported to be a host of highly lethal iridovirus in the native range, but no native species reported to be affected.
Assessor	Sabrina Kumschick
Contributors	John Measey; Mohlamatsane Mokhatla; James Baxter-Gilbert; Corey Thorp; Alexander D. Rebelo; Giovanni Vimercati; Sarah J. Davies; F. André de Villiers; Nitya Prakash Mohanty; Carla Wagener; Khensani Nkuna
Reviewers	EICAT authority
Recommended citation	Sabrina Kumschick. (2026). *Ambystoma tigrinum* . IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT).

