

Cane toad

Rhinella marina



KEY FEATURES



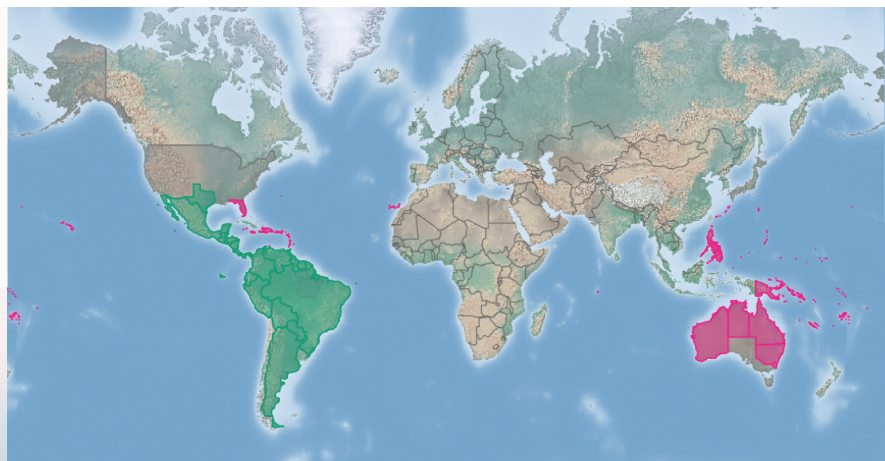
- Adults have a rough, warty skin, coloured tan, brown or dark brown, dull green or black
- Can grow up to 30cm long, with an average of 12–15cm in many regions. Males slightly smaller
- Fingers lack webbing, but toes are heavily webbed
- The tympanum is distinct, about one half to two thirds the size of the eye
- Venom glands clustered together to form large and distinctive parotoid glands, found above each shoulder (top image). These glands can ooze venom
- Original habitat was seasonal Amazonian savanna, with small fresh water lakes. Also found in rain forests in their native range and introduced range, though not at high densities
- Able to use human-altered environments such as artificial ponds, gardens, drain pipes, debris, under cement piles and under houses
- Cane toads will usually stay on dry land and reproduce in any shallow water nearby. Adults, tadpoles and young frogs (bottom image) are tolerant of very high levels of salinity



PATHWAYS

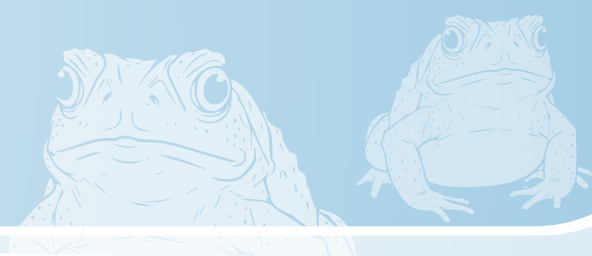
- Introduced
- Native
- Origin not recorded

- Shipping
- Biological control
- Water



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IMPACTS



Environment

Cane toads will feed on almost any terrestrial animal and compete with native amphibians for food and breeding habitats. Their toxic secretions can cause illness and death in wildlife, such as snakes and lizards



Health

Toxic secretion causes extreme pain if rubbed into the eyes. Human deaths have been recorded after ingestion of the eggs or adults.

Have been observed entering water tanks in Tuvalu, which could contaminate supply



Society and Culture

Not reported.



Economy

Reported as having a positive impacts as a biological control.

However, as they will eat anything they likely also have a negative impact on biological control insects



DISTRIBUTION

Native range

Northern South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Paraguay, Venezuela, the Guianas, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago), Central America, and Mexico northward to extreme southern Texas.

Introduced range

Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, much of the Caribbean, Australia, Japan, Egypt, Mauritius and Diego Garcia of the Chagos Archipelago.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Cane toads were introduced to many countries as biological control agents for insect pests of sugarcane and other crops.

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Text, images: *Rhinella marina* (cane toad) – CABI and map <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/10333>



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