

Embryonic and Larval Development of *Pelophylax bedriagae* (Amphibia, Anura), in Iran

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Abstract : We studied the development and morphology of different larval stages of *Pelophylax bedriagae* at two rearing temperatures (20 and 24°C). Eggs collected from a breeding site in south-western Iran. Diagnostic morphological characters are provided for Gosner (1960) larval stages 1-46. The larvae hatched about seven days after egg deposition. Principal diagnostic feature including the formation of the funnel-shaped oral disc became discernible about ten days after hatch at Gosner stage 21 and degenerated at Gosner stage 42. Larvae developed faster at higher temperatures. The largest body length of larval *P. bedriagae* measured about 54mm in 70 days after egg deposition. Based on our results, the longest metamorphosis time was observed on temperature (20°C) whilst the shortest metamorphosis time occurred on temperature (24°C). Compared with the majority of other Palearctic Anurans, it appears that embryonic and larval development is usually slow rapid in *P. bedriagae*.

Keywords : development, larval stages, *Pelophylax bedriagae*, temperatures

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