

# No Diving Allowed: What Predator Escape Decisions Do Tadpoles Make In Shallow Water?

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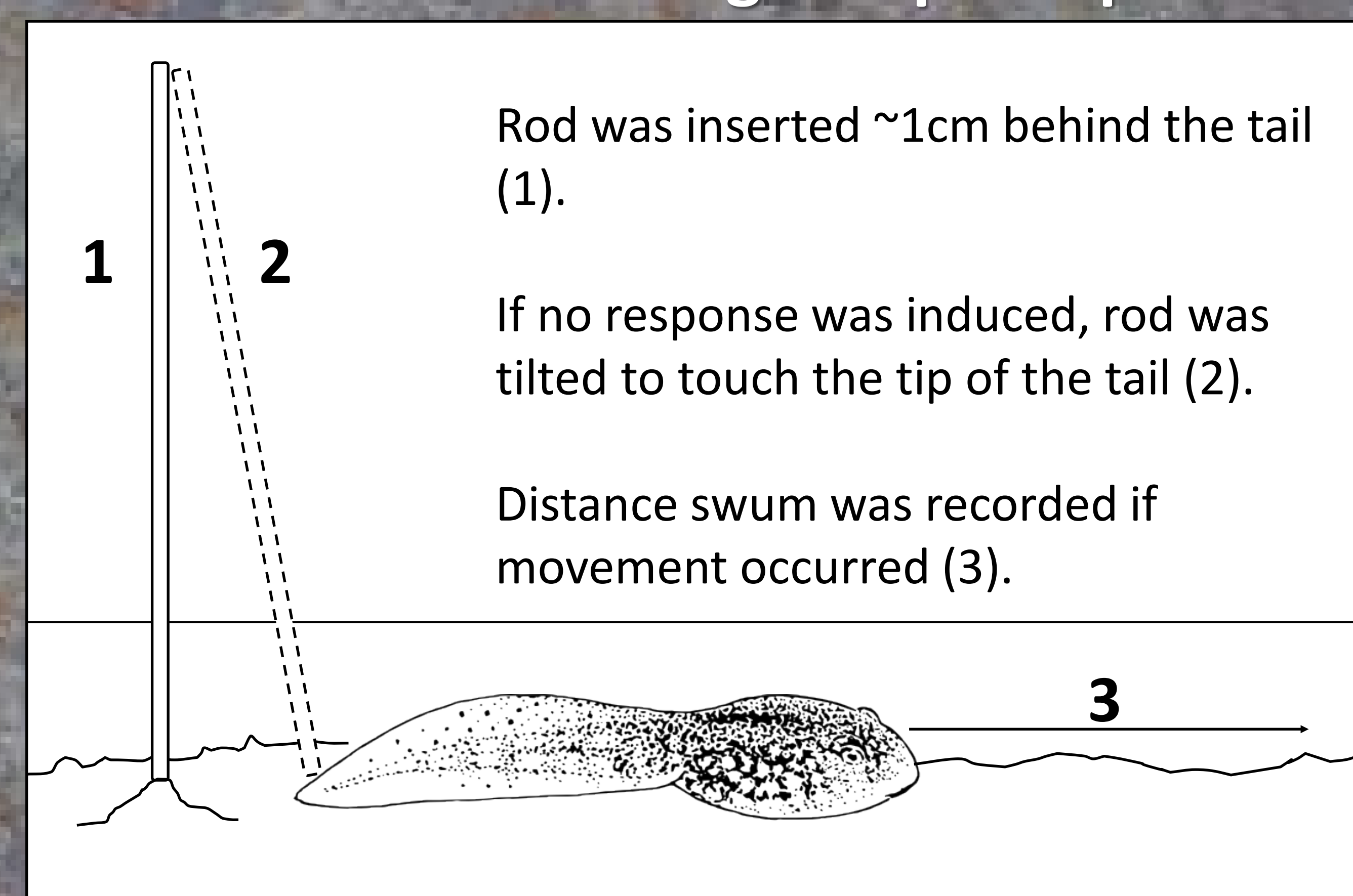
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Tadpoles in *shallow* water cannot dive to escape predators, as do ones in *deep* water<sup>1</sup>

If attacked from above,  
what escape options do they have?

Smaller tadpoles more often remained still when exposed to a simulated predation event. ■  
Larger tadpoles more often tended to flee. ■

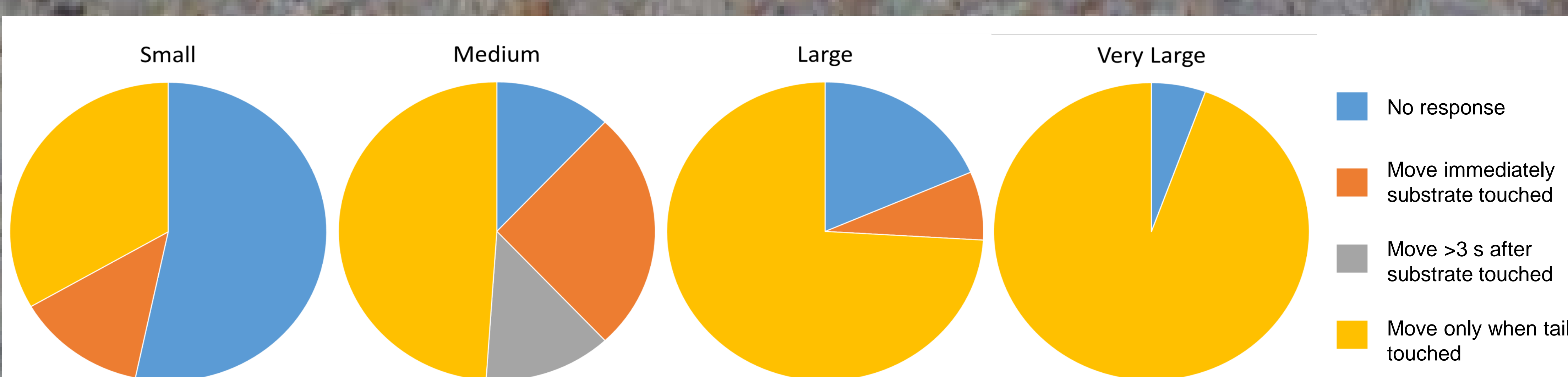
Inducing escape responses



As smaller tadpoles have lower burst speeds than larger conspecifics<sup>2</sup>, immobility and reliance on crypsis ■ ■ may be a successful predator escape tactic.

An initial burst of movement may be a more successful predator escape tactic by larger tadpoles<sup>2</sup>.

Escape behaviour of tadpoles  
in shallow water  
appears to change  
ontogenetically.



<sup>1</sup> Bateman, P. W., & Fleming, P. A. (2014). Body size and group size of Cuban tree frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) tadpoles influence their escape behaviour. *Acta Ethologica*, 18(2), 161-166

<sup>2</sup> Fleming, P. A., & Bateman, P. W. (2015). Fish and amphibians. Chap. 6. In: *Escaping From Predators: An Integrative View of Escape Decisions* Cambridge University Press