



3 **Four decades of phenology in an alpine amphibian:**
4 **trends, stasis, and climatic drivers**

5 Omar Lenzi¹, Kurt Grossenbacher², Silvia Zumbach³, Beatrice Lüscher⁴, Sarah Althaus⁴,
6 Daniela Schmocker⁵, Helmut Recher⁶, Marco Thoma⁷, Arpat Ozgul¹, Benedikt R. Schmidt^{1,3}

7 ¹Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, University of Zurich,
8 Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zurich, Switzerland

9 ²Eichholzstrasse 18F, 3027 Bern, Switzerland

10 ³Info Fauna Karch, Bellevaux 51, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

11 ⁴Schwand 3, 3110 Münsingen, Switzerland

12 ⁵Impuls AG, Seestrasse 2, 3600 Thun, Switzerland

13 ⁶Abteilung Biodiversität und Landschaft, Bundesamt für Umwelt, Worblentalstrasse 68, 3063
14 Ittigen, Switzerland

15 ⁷Wylerringstrasse 1, 3014 Bern, Switzerland

16 Corresponding author's email address: omar.lenzi@ieu.uzh.ch

17

18 ORCID: OL, 0000-0003-1938-6786

19 MT, 0000-0003-2729-2376

20 AO, 0000-0001-7477-2642

21 BRS, 0000-0002-4023-1001

22

23 Word count (abstract through acknowledgements): 7'603

24 Number of citations: 94

25 Number of tables in main document: 3

26 Number of figures in main document: 3

27 **Abstract**

28 1. Strong phenological shifts in response to changes in climatic conditions have
29 been reported for many species, including amphibians, which are expected to
30 breed earlier. Phenological shifts in breeding are observed in a wide number
31 of amphibian populations, but less is known about populations living at high
32 elevations, which are predicted to be more sensitive to climate change than
33 lowland populations.

34

35 2. The goal of this study is to assess the main factors determining the timing of
36 breeding in an alpine population of the common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and to
37 describe the observed shifts in its breeding phenology.

38

39 3. We modelled the effect of environmental variables on the start and peak dates
40 of the breeding season using 39 years of individual-based data. In addition,
41 we investigated the effect of the lunar cycle, as well as the individual variation
42 in breeding phenology. Finally, to assess the individual heterogeneity in the
43 timing of breeding, we calculated the repeatability of the timing of arrival at the
44 breeding site.

45

46 4. Breeding advanced to earlier dates in the first years of the study but the trend
47 continued only until the mid 1990s, and stabilised afterwards. Overall, toads
48 are now breeding on average around 30 days earlier than at the start of the
49 study period. High temperatures and low snow cover in winter and spring, as
50 well as reduced spring precipitation were all associated with earlier breeding.
51 Additionally, we found evidence of males arriving on average before females

52 at the breeding site but no clear and strong effect of the lunar cycle. We only
53 found weak evidence of among-individual variation in shifts in the breeding
54 phenology, as well as a low repeatability of arrival timing.

55

56 5. Our findings show that the observed changes in breeding phenology are
57 strongly associated with the environmental conditions. These results
58 contribute to filling a knowledge gap on the effects of climate change on
59 alpine amphibian populations. Moreover, we show that changes in phenology,
60 especially in the mountains, can be hard to predict as local microclimatic
61 conditions do not necessarily reflect the observed global climatic trends.

62

63 **Keywords:** Phenology, climate change, *Bufo bufo*, mountains, principal component
64 analysis, repeatability

65 Introduction

66

67 Phenology refers to the timing of periodical events (e.g., seasonal migration, spring
68 flowering) in relation to biotic and abiotic factors, and is a key element of the life

69 cycle in a multitude of organisms. Phenology is normally determined by a

70 combination of a genetic and an environmental component (Quinn & Wetherington,

71 2002; Tang et al., 2016). Thus, climate change can shift the phenology of many

72 species, potentially leading to mismatches between demand and availability of

73 resources (Parmesan & Yohe, 2003; Visser & Gienapp, 2019; Iler et al., 2021).

74 These shifts can have large effects on the demography of populations, as individuals

75 cannot benefit from the optimal conditions at the right time, with consequences on

76 their fitness (Visser & Gienapp, 2019; Iler et al., 2021). Therefore, it is important to

77 describe and quantify phenological shifts and their causes.

78 Phenology has a key role in amphibians as well, especially in species living in

79 temperate regions, where various aspects of the annual cycle are determined by

80 seasonality (Duellman & Trueb, 1986; Gotthard, 2001; Hartel et al., 2007). The

81 environmental component is more important than the genetic component in

82 explosive breeders (*sensu* Wells, 1977). In fact, explosive breeders reproduce once

83 a year around springtime and the timing is linked to specific environmental signals

84 such as increasing day length, temperature, and rainfall, which can trigger the

85 migration of amphibians from the hibernation sites to the breeding ponds (Semlitsch,

86 1985; Oseen & Wassersug, 2002; While & Uller, 2014; Ficetola & Maiorano, 2016).

87 Other important environmental factors affecting the timing of breeding in explosive

88 breeders can be the lunar cycle (Grant et al., 2009; Green et al., 2016; Arnfield et al.,

89 2012; Jarvis et al., 2021) or the hydrological cycle of breeding ponds (Semlitsch et

90 al., 1993). Previous studies have also identified a possible genetic component in
91 triggering the migration to the breeding site and thus the start of the breeding season
92 (Heusser & Ott, 1968; Semlitsch et al., 1993; Phillimore et al., 2010). Breeding
93 phenology also shows individual variation, as the animals will arrive at different times
94 at the breeding site. The causes of individual-level variation are multifold and can
95 include genetics (Heusser & Ott, 1968; Semlitsch et al., 1993), sex and size (Loman
96 & Madsen, 1986), body condition (Kokko, 1999) as well as features of the
97 hibernation site, such as distance from the breeding site, which in *Bufo bufo* can be
98 up to more than 1000 m (Sztatecsny & Schabetsberger, 2005; Kovar et al., 2009).

99 While most studies on amphibians across species and locations have found
100 earlier spring breeding in response to climate change (Beebee, 1995; Blaustein et
101 al., 2001; Parmesan, 2007; While & Uller, 2014), phenological delays have also been
102 observed (e.g., Arnfield et al., 2012; Arietta et al., 2020). In other cases, non-linear
103 responses to environmental drivers such as the North Atlantic Oscillation were
104 observed (Prodon et al., 2020). The direction and magnitude of phenological shifts
105 are therefore variable among and within species, as they can depend on the specific
106 environmental conditions that the populations are experiencing at the local scale, or
107 on the genetic structure of said populations (Phillimore et al., 2010; Bison et al.,
108 2021).

109 Shifts in phenology can have adverse effects on amphibians, as phenological
110 mismatches can affect predator-prey dynamics and food availability (Todd et al.,
111 2011; Reinhardt et al., 2015; Jara et al., 2019; Visser & Gienapp, 2019). In
112 temperate regions, early breeding can expose eggs and hatched tadpoles more
113 frequently to late frost events, thus increasing mortality (Muir et al., 2014; Bison et
114 al., 2021). On the other hand, in the absence of frost or drying events, earlier

115 breeding might be beneficial as it allows post-metamorphic toadlets more time to
116 fully develop in summer before hibernation (Reading & Clarke, 1999; Reading,
117 2010). Delayed breeding can also have a negative outcome on the population, as it
118 can result in increased mortality in juveniles that could not fully grow before their first
119 hibernation (Morin et al., 1990; Garner et al., 2011; Sinsch & Schäfer, 2016). Even
120 though this phenomenon can be compensated in some cases with an accelerated
121 growth rate, this can come at the cost of reduced defences against predation
122 (Orizaola et al., 2016). Thus, phenological shifts and their causes should be
123 identified and better understood, as they can help design and prioritise conservation
124 and management actions.

125 The consequences of phenological shifts could be exacerbated in ecosystems
126 less resilient to climate change. Mountains are among the most threatened
127 ecosystems (Thompson, 2000; Diaz et al., 2003, but see Körner & Hiltbrunner, 2021)
128 and are predicted to warm more rapidly in the northern hemisphere (Nogués-Bravo
129 et al., 2007; Keiler et al., 2010; Vitasse et al., 2021). The phenology of plant and
130 animal populations at high elevations is shifting on average towards earlier dates
131 (Vitasse et al., 2021). Long-term studies on amphibian populations living at high
132 elevations are scarce, and not much is known about how their breeding phenology is
133 changing. These populations experience different environmental conditions (e.g.,
134 increased amount of snow and colder temperatures) compared to their lowland
135 counterparts. Thus, different environmental variables potentially play a bigger role in
136 determining breeding phenology compared to what is observed at lower elevations
137 (Nufio et al., 2010; Bison et al., 2020).

138 Using 39 years of data on an explosive-breeding amphibian population living
139 at a high elevation (*B. bufo*), we study the relationship between breeding phenology

140 and the environment. More specifically, our goal is to (i) identify the environmental
141 variables (e.g., temperature, snow cover, moon cycle) that could be driving the
142 observed breeding phenology of this population (both the start and the peak of the
143 breeding season), (ii) analyse if there is significant variation in the phenological shifts
144 among individuals, (iii) obtain a measure of individual heterogeneity, by calculating
145 individual-level repeatability (i.e., upper limit of heritability; Falconer, 1981; Lessells &
146 Boag, 1987; Semlitsch et al., 1993) of the timing of arrival at the breeding site for
147 both males and females.

148 **Material and Methods**

149 ***Life-history data***

150

151 The study site is a pond located above Grindelwald, below the Grosse Scheidegg
152 mountain pass (canton of Bern, Switzerland, 46.65240 N, 8.09683 E), at an elevation
153 of 1841 m a.s.l. The pond measures approximately 10 m x 30 m, with a maximum
154 depth of about 1 m. Since 1982, we have captured annually all the toads that come
155 to breed at the study pond. We then marked (first by toe-clipping, then starting in
156 1993 by implanting PIT tags), measured, and released them in the same place
157 (Hemelaar, 1988; Grossenbacher, 2002). To make sure we captured both early and
158 late arrivers, we repeated this procedure for on average 5–6 nights, with breaks in-
159 between of about 2-4 days (i.e, the data conform to Pollock's (1982) robust design).
160 The length of the fieldwork period usually covers the breeding season duration,
161 which typically lasts about two weeks at our study pond. This design also had the
162 advantage of not overly stressing the toads. In total, for the period 1982–2020, 3053
163 uniquely recognizable individuals have been caught, of which 1852 were males and
164 1201 females. For each individual we have a record of presence for each capture
165 night over the study period. Given the reduced size of the pond and the repeated
166 capture rounds within a capture night, we assumed high capture probabilities
167 (capture probability $p \approx 0.85$ per year based on a preliminary analysis of the mark-
168 recapture data). At the population level we determined for each year a start, a peak,
169 and an end date of breeding (i.e., first capture night, the capture night when most
170 toads were captured, and last capture night, respectively). These calendar dates
171 were all transformed into days of the year (where January 1st = 1), to facilitate

172 modelling of long-term trends. These dates come with a degree of uncertainty, given
173 the sampling done every 2–4 days and not daily. The date of start of the breeding
174 comes with additional uncertainty as the first capture night is not always reflective of
175 the same toad activity at the pond over the study period. We accounted for these
176 sources of uncertainty in all following analyses, using simulated data on start and
177 peak breeding dates.

178

179 ***Climatic data***

180

181 We obtained climatic data for the period 1980–2020 from the DaymetCH dataset
182 (data obtained from *Bioclimatic maps of Switzerland* © WSL, based on station data
183 from the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss, and elaborated
184 by the *Land Change Science group*, WSL). This dataset consists of a 100-metre
185 resolution grid of interpolated estimates of weather variables, using meteorological
186 data from ground stations and the Daymet software (Thornton et al., 1997). We
187 obtained data for the cell containing the breeding pond for the following variables:
188 daily minimum, maximum, and mean temperature, daily total precipitation, and daily
189 snow water equivalent (SWE; the equivalent amount of water stored in the
190 snowpack). We then calculated average seasonal minimum, maximum, and mean
191 daily temperatures, and cumulative seasonal precipitation and SWE.

192 **Data analysis**

193

194 *Population trend*

195

196 A visual inspection of the data suggests that the trends in the breeding phenology
197 across the study period are non-linear, both for start and peak breeding (Figure 1).
198 Therefore, to better describe the observed trends, we conducted a piecewise
199 regression on both start and peak breeding using the R package *segmented*
200 (Muggeo, 2008). This analysis enables the identification of possible breakpoints in a
201 trend, in our case a year (or several years) when a significant change occurs in the
202 temporal trends of the breeding phenology. We set the year 1982 as year 0 in the
203 model, to obtain a more intuitive interpretation of the intercept. Moreover, we decided
204 to assess the robustness of our analysis to possible imperfect assignment of start
205 and peak dates, as the toad sampling is not done daily. To do this, we simulated
206 1000 datasets of breeding start dates over the study period, allowing the date of the
207 start of the breeding to be as early as seven days before the originally assigned first
208 capture night. The process was described by a uniform distribution, where each date
209 between 0 and 7 days earlier than the assigned date had the same probability of
210 being chosen. We also simulated 1000 datasets for peak breeding dates, allowing
211 the dates to deviate from the originally assigned date by letting it vary between the
212 previous and the following capture night, again with the dates being picked from an
213 uniform distribution. Using these simulated datasets, we ran 1000 piecewise
214 regressions for both start and peak breeding dates, and calculated the 2.5th and the
215 97.5th percentiles of the values of each model parameter, including p-values testing
216 for the significance of the breakpoint.

217 Moreover, to check how the standard deviation (SD) of the start or the peak
218 breeding dates changes over time, we calculated for both start and peak breeding
219 the SD of the residuals of each of the 1000 piecewise regressions, using a rolling
220 window approach (with a 10-year window) with the function *rollapply* of the package
221 *zoo* (Zeileis & Grothendieck, 2005).

222 *Determinants of variation in the breeding phenology in the population*

223

224 To understand the climatic causes of the observed shifts in the breeding phenology
225 of this population, we investigated the effects of several climatic variables on the
226 timing of breeding at the population level. We identified *a priori* the climatic
227 covariates that most reasonably could influence the breeding phenology in spring
228 based on previous literature and expert knowledge (Oseen & Wassersug, 2002;
229 Reading, 2003; While & Uller, 2014; Ficetola & Maiorano, 2016; Green, 2017).

230 These climatic covariates are: average minimum daily temperature in spring (T_{Sp})
231 and winter (T_w), total precipitation in spring ($Prec_{Sp}$, which includes both rainfall and
232 snowfall), total snow water equivalent in spring (SWE_{Sp}), and winter (SWE_w). We
233 then performed a piecewise regression on the time series of these five climatic
234 covariates (Figure 2, Table S4). We used minimum temperatures because toads are
235 nocturnal animals and are therefore more exposed to colder temperatures and less
236 to average or warmer temperatures. Moreover, minimum temperatures will
237 determine if the ground stays above freezing conditions. Changing the temperature
238 variable (mean vs minimum vs maximum) in the subsequent analyses did not
239 change the results as they were highly correlated ($r > 0.93$).

240 With warmer winters and springs, toads should emerge sooner from their
241 hibernation burrows as the snow will melt and the ground unfreeze earlier (Corn,
242 2003). The higher the snow water equivalent, the later the toads will emerge, as the
243 snow cover will keep them blocked underground (Corn, 2003). Finally, precipitation
244 can either favour or delay the breeding season. Snowfall should delay breeding as
245 the snow cover will increase (Corn, 2003), but rainfall could potentially lead to an
246 earlier start of the breeding season, as toads need high humidity levels to be active

247 (Todd et al., 2011; Green, 2017). After standardising these climatic variables by
248 subtracting the mean value and dividing by the standard deviation, we performed a
249 principal component analysis (PCA, function *prcomp*, R package *stats* (R Core
250 Team, 2020)), to reduce dimensionality and obtain uncorrelated variables (Figure
251 S1).

252 In addition to these five climatic variables, the lunar cycle has also been
253 identified to be an important factor for the timing of breeding in amphibians, with in
254 general peak migration to the breeding site under waxing or full moon phases (Grant
255 et al., 2009; Arnfield et al., 2012; Green et al., 2016; Jarvis et al., 2021). To assess
256 the effect of the lunar cycle on the breeding phenology in our population, we first
257 obtained the moon phase for each date of breeding start and peak breeding over the
258 study period using the package *lunar* (Lazaridis, 2014). Following Arnfield et al.
259 (2012) and Jarvis et al. (2021), we transformed the lunar phases in lunar angles (in
260 radians, where 0 = new moon and π = full moon).

261 To quantify both the effects of climate and of the moon cycle on the breeding
262 phenology, we modelled two separate linear regressions on the day of the breeding
263 start and the day of peak breeding over the period 1982–2020. As explanatory
264 variables we used the scores of the first two principal components (PC), as they
265 explained an important amount of the variance in the data (>70%). As an additional
266 explanatory variable, to better understand the role of the moon cycle, we included
267 the cosine of the lunar angles of the start and peak breeding dates respectively. We
268 first modelled the originally assigned dates, and then, as we did for the piecewise
269 regression, we ran 1000 models with simulated datasets with varying dates of start
270 and peak breeding, drawn from a uniform distribution. Each date could vary to be
271 any date between the previous and following capture night.

272 To further study the association between the moon cycle and breeding
273 phenology we tested if start and peak breeding tended to happen more frequently
274 under certain moon phases. To do this, we used the *rayleigh.test* function of the
275 *circular* R package (Agostinelli & Lund, 2017) to perform the Rayleigh test, a circular
276 goodness-of-fit test that is particularly suited for checking if the values of a circular
277 variable show a unimodal departure from a uniform distribution (Landler et al., 2018).
278 To check for significant multimodal departures we performed the Hermans-Rasson
279 test instead, using the *HR_test* from the *CircMLE* package (Fitak & Johnsen, 2017;
280 Landler et al., 2018). Both tests were performed on the values in radians of the lunar
281 angles. Also in this case we first ran the tests on the originally assigned dates and
282 then we ran them on 1000 simulated datasets of start and peak breeding dates and
283 obtained the 2.5th and 97.5th percentile of the p-values.

284

285 *Determinants of individual variation in breeding phenology*

286

287 In addition to considering phenology at the population level, we also wanted to
288 understand whether individuals can show different patterns of changes in their
289 reproductive phenology over time through different responses to climatic variables,
290 possibly indicating a genetic component that mediates the effect of the changing
291 environment. We therefore modelled the effect of the previously used principal
292 components PC1 and PC2, as well as of the cosine of the lunar angle on each
293 individual first capture occasion in any given year (6735 occurrences for 3053
294 uniquely marked individuals, as many individuals were breeding in multiple years
295 (mean = 2.21 years, SE = 0.02)), using a linear mixed model (package *lmerTest*,
296 Kuznetsova et al., 2017). Also in this case, we first ran the model on the originally

297 assigned arrival dates, and then, to account for uncertainty in the assignment of the
298 dates of arrival to the pond we simulated 1000 new datasets where every individual
299 arrival date is newly sampled from an uniform distribution and can be as early as the
300 capture night preceding the original arrival date, or if it was the first capture night of
301 the season, up to seven days before. Using these 1000 new datasets we ran 1000
302 models and obtained the 2.5th and the 97.5th percentile values for each parameter.
303 As a random effect, applied on both the intercept and the slope of both PC1 and
304 PC2, we included individual identity (ID). This was done not only to observe if
305 individuals react differently to changing environmental conditions, but also to account
306 for the non-independence of the data. Moreover, we also included *year* as a random
307 effect on the intercept, to account for unexplained year-specific variation in the data.
308 Finally, we included the effect of sex to account for differences between males and
309 female. To properly be able to compare the effects of continuous variables (i.e., the
310 two PCs and the cosine of the lunar angles) with the effect of a categorical variable
311 (i.e., sex), we standardised the three continuous variables by subtracting the mean
312 and dividing by two times the standard deviation (Gelman, 2008). Finally, as a
313 measure of model fit, we calculated the conditional R^2 value using the
314 *r.squaredGLMM* function from the package *MuMIn* (Barton, 2019).

315

316 *Repeatability of arrival date*

317

318 Finally, we also estimated repeatability (i.e., the upper limit of heritability) of arrival
319 dates at the breeding site. High values of repeatability (r) mean that individuals are
320 consistent in their relative arrival timing (e.g., always among the first ones), and vice
321 versa. To calculate r , we used for each individual the date of first capture for each

322 year that it was captured. This date is a relatively good proxy for the date of arrival at
323 the breeding site, as the data collection usually starts every year approximately when
324 the first toads arrive at the pond. The date was converted to the day of the year
325 (where January 1st = 1), and then standardised by subtracting the year-specific
326 mean and dividing by the year-specific standard deviation. We then used the
327 function *rpt* from the package *rptR* to calculate *r* using individual ID as the group
328 variable (Stoffel et al., 2017), and bootstrapping 1000 times to obtain the 95% CI.
329 As for all the other analyses, to account for the uncertainty in the assignment of the
330 dates, we repeated the calculation of *r* 1000 times, sampling different arrival dates
331 every time from a uniform distribution, where the arrival date of each individual can
332 be up to the previous capture night, or up to seven days earlier if they were caught
333 during the first capture night of the season. We then calculated the 2.5th and the
334 97.5th percentiles of *r* to show the spread it can have. Given the different
335 reproductive strategies that males and females toads have, with females on average
336 coming to the breeding site later than males and for a shorter period of time
337 (Reading & Clarke, 1983; Loman & Madsen, 1986), we performed sex-specific
338 calculations of *r*.

339

340 We conducted all the analyses in R (R version 4.1.1; R Core Team, 2020) with
341 RStudio (version 2022.7.1.554; R Studio Team, 2022).

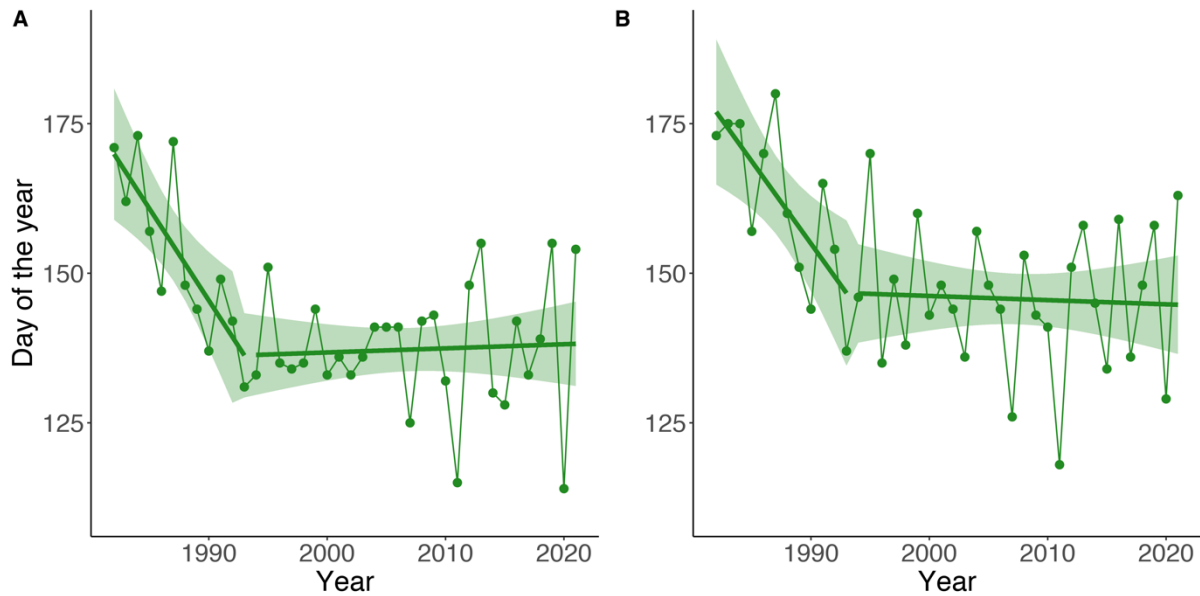
342 **Results**

343

344 ***Population trend***

345

346 Both the breeding start dates and the dates of peak breeding show very similar
347 trends (Pearson's correlation coefficient = 0.91), with both also showing marked
348 between-year variation over the study period. Nonetheless, a shift towards earlier
349 breeding dates is observable, with breeding happening now on average around 30
350 days earlier compared to the start of the study period (Figure 1). The piecewise
351 regression on breeding start dates identified a single breakpoint in the temporal trend
352 in the year 1993 with a pre-1993 steep advancement of breeding dates followed by a
353 post-1993 almost flat trend (Figure 1A; Table 1). The analysis of the robustness of
354 the piecewise regression, done by simulating data and running 1000 piecewise
355 regressions, performed very similarly, with 910 cases out of 1000 where the year
356 1993 was identified as breakpoint and the model coefficients were very close to the
357 piecewise regression conducted on the originally assigned breeding dates (Table
358 S1). The piecewise regression on peak breeding dates also identified 1993 as a
359 breakpoint year (Figure 1B; Table 1). In this case, the analysis of the robustness
360 showed slightly more variation, with the breakpoint years mostly obtained being 1993
361 and 1996 (274 and 283 out of 1000 respectively) (Table S1). Moreover, we found the
362 standard deviation (SD) of the residuals of the piecewise regressions on both start
363 and peak breeding dates to vary considerably, with higher SDs at the start and the
364 end of the study period (Figure S2). To further check the pattern in the residuals we
365 split them in four different decades and checked their distribution (Figure S3).



366

367

368 **Figure 1.** Trends of breeding phenology over the study period (1982–2021). **(A)** First day of

369 the breeding season (day of the year, where January 1st = 1). The segmented green line is

370 the result of a piecewise regression, where the year 1993 (± 5 ; 95% CI) was identified as a

371 breakpoint, thus creating two distinct trends. **(B)** Date of peak breeding (i.e., date where

372 most toads were captured in a given breeding season). The segmented green line is the

373 result of a piecewise regression, where the year 1993 (± 6 , 95% CI) was identified as a

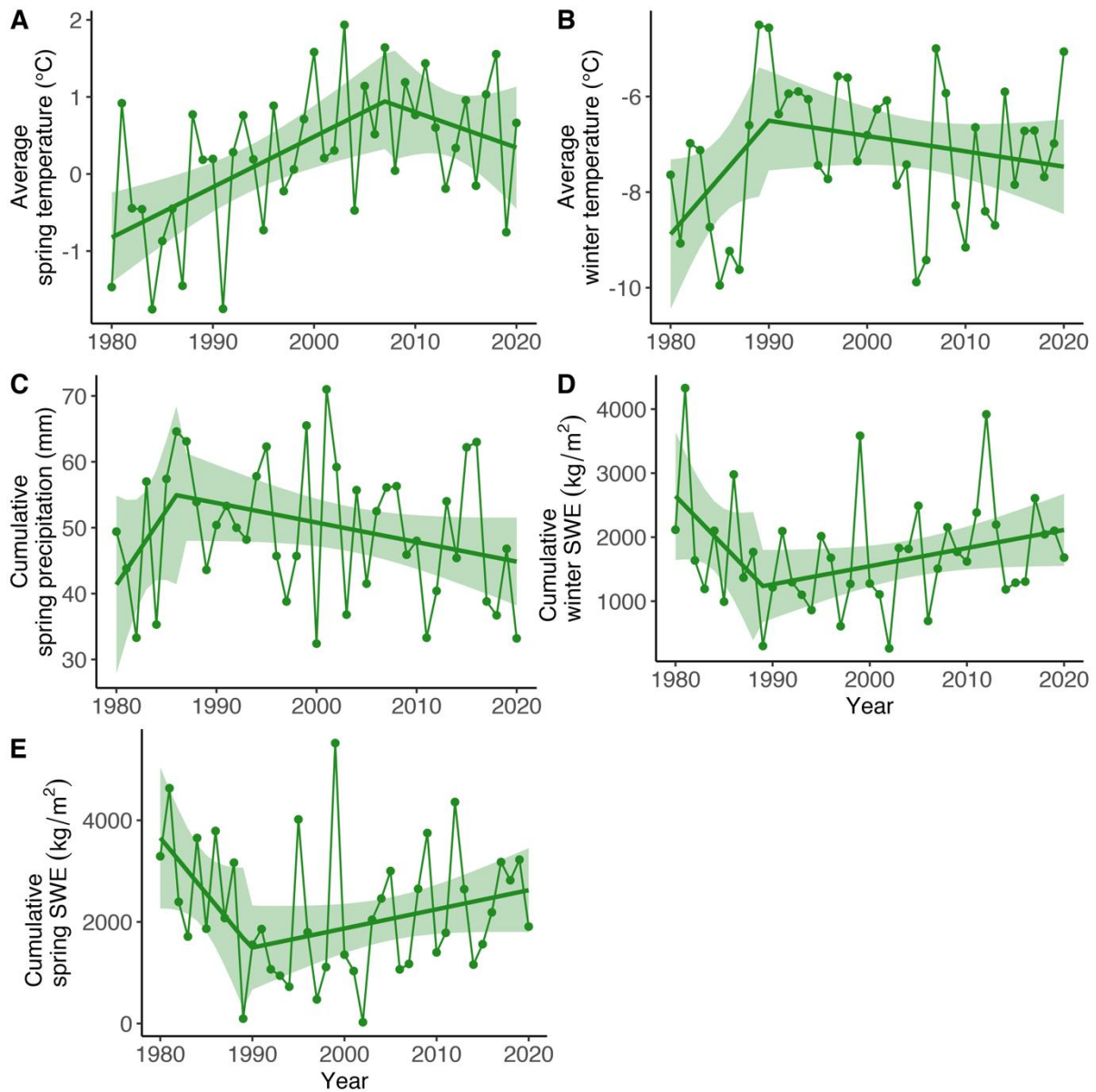
374 breakpoint. The green band in both plots represents the 95% CI for the piecewise

374 regression.

Table 1. Summary of the piecewise regressions on the start and peak of the breeding season. For both intercept and slopes we show the estimate, its standard error, and the t-value and p-value associated with it. Slope1 refers to the segment before the breakpoint and Slope2 refers to the segment after the breakpoint. Asterisks next to the p-values show significance at the 0.05 level. The p-value for Slope2 is NA since standard asymptotics do not apply (Muggeo, 2008). No p-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

	Estimates	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	
Intercept	169.92	5.60	30.32	-	
Start	Slope1	-3.06	0.95	-3.23	0.0027*
	Slope2	0.069	0.22	0.31	NA
	Breakpoint	1993	2.36	-	< 0.001*
Intercept	176.96	6.19	28.57	-	
Peak	Slope1	-2.75	0.95	-2.89	0.0066*
	Slope2	-0.07	0.27	-0.26	NA
	Breakpoint	1993	2.84	-	0.0023*

375



376
377

378 **Figure 2.** Trends over the study period of the five focal environmental variables. **(A)** Average
379 minimum daily temperature in spring. The piecewise regression identified the year 2007 (± 9 ,
380 95% CI) as a breakpoint. **(B)** Average minimum daily temperature in winter. The year 1990 (\pm
381 7, 95% CI) was a breakpoint. **(C)** Cumulative precipitation in spring. The year 1986 (± 8 , 95%
382 CI) was a breakpoint. **(D)** Cumulative snow water equivalent (SWE) in winter. The year 1989
383 (± 7 , 95% CI) was a breakpoint. **(E)** Cumulative SWE in Spring. The year 1990 (± 7 , 95% CI)
384 was a breakpoint. In all plots green ribbons represent the 95% CI for the linear regressions.
385 Table S4 in the Appendix shows the summary of these five piecewise regressions.

386 ***Determinants of variation in the breeding phenology in the population***

387

388 The first two principal components (PC) of the principal component analysis (PCA)
389 described together more than 70% of the variation in the data, and both had a
390 standard deviation (i.e. the squared root of their eigenvalue) above one (Figure S1;
391 Table S5). Therefore, applying the Kaiser rule, we kept the scores of these two PCs
392 (PC1 and PC2) as explanatory variables in the following linear regressions on the
393 start of the breeding season and on peak breeding (also including the scaled cosine
394 of lunar angle). PC1 was mostly determined by winter temperature (+0.45 loading)
395 and winter and spring SWE (-0.61 and -0.64, respectively). PC2 was mostly
396 determined by spring weather conditions. Spring temperature had a negative loading
397 (-0.68), while precipitation had a positive loading (+0.68) (Figure S1; Table S6).

398 Regarding the start of the breeding season, the model (adjusted $R^2 = 0.41$)
399 indicated a significant negative relationship with PC1 and a significant positive
400 relationship with PC2 (Table 2). The cosine of the lunar angle had a non-significant
401 effect. Similarly, for the regression on the dates of peak breeding, we found a
402 significant negative relationship with PC1 and a significant positive relationship with
403 PC2, while the cosine of the lunar angle had a small and non-significant effect (Table
404 2). The adjusted R^2 was 0.54. In both cases the outcome is that warmer
405 temperatures in winter and spring, less snow cover, and weaker precipitations are all
406 associated with an earlier start and peak of the breeding season. Both the 1000
407 linear regressions on the simulated dates of the start of the breeding season and the
408 1000 on the simulated dates of peak breeding performed similarly to the two
409 regressions on the originally assigned dates (Table S2), indicating that our analysis
410 is robust to possible imperfect assignment of dates of start and peak breeding.

Table 2. Summary of the linear regression on the start and peak of the breeding season. For each variable we show the estimate, its standard error, and the t-value and p-value associated with it. Asterisks next to the p-value show significance at the 0.05 level. No p-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

	Estimates	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	
Intercept	141.72	1.65	85.92	-	
Start	PC1	-5.48	1.67	-3.28	0.0024*
	PC2	7.00	1.68	4.17	0.00019
	cos(moon)	1.32	1.68	0.79	0.44
Intercept	150.21	1.56	96.59	-	
Peak	PC1	-5.47	1.58	-3.47	0.0014*
	PC2	9.37	1.60	5.86	< 0.0001*
	cos(moon)	0.24	1.60	0.15	0.88

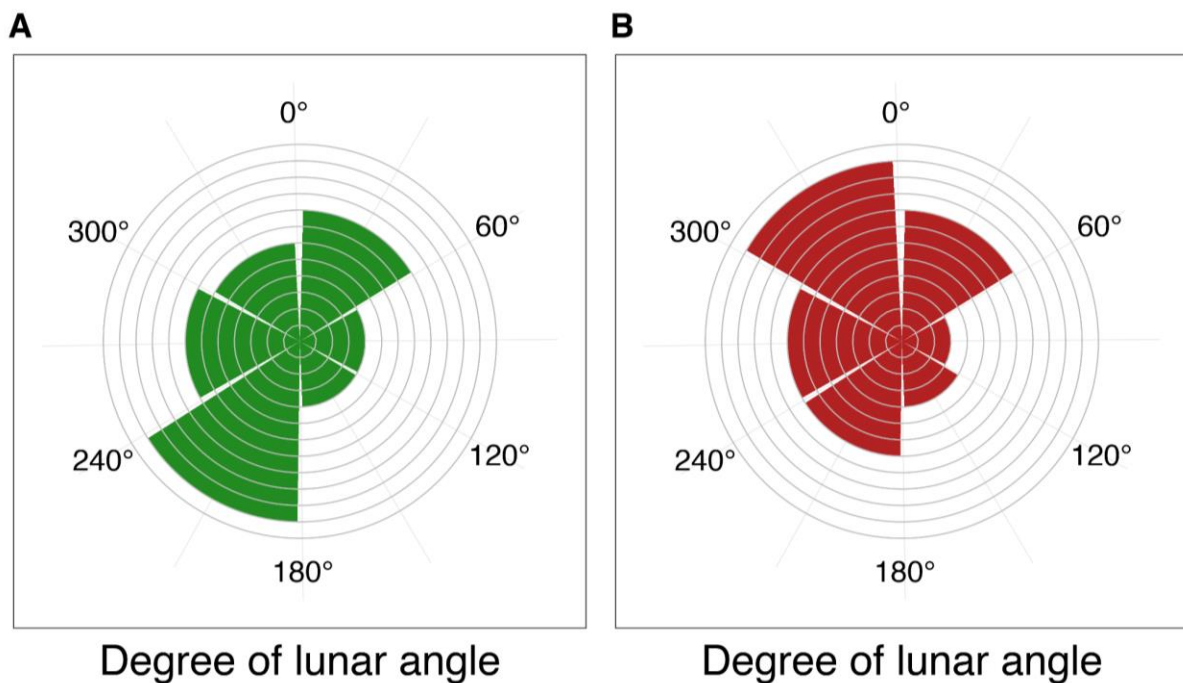
411

412 ***Effect of the moon cycle on breeding phenology***

413

414 To further understand if the lunar cycle is associated with the breeding phenology,
 415 we performed two statistical tests. To check for unimodal deviation we ran a
 416 Rayleigh's test on the moon phases on breeding season start and on peak dates. In
 417 both cases we obtained a non-significant p-value (0.27 and 0.08 respectively),
 418 indicating that we could not confidently reject the null-hypothesis of the data being
 419 uniformly distributed in the circular space. In addition, the outcome of the Hermans-
 420 Rasson test for multivariate deviations indicated that the null hypothesis could not be
 421 rejected for both start and peak breeding (p-value = 0.38 and 0.21 respectively). To
 422 further assess the robustness of our analysis to imperfect assignment of dates we

423 ran both the Rayleigh's and Hermans-Rasson test on 1000 simulated datasets of
424 dates of start and peak breeding. The outcome is similar to the tests performed on
425 the originally assigned dates. The p-values of the Rayleigh's test were 0.36 [2.5th
426 and 97.5th percentiles: 0.07 ; 0.80] and 0.16 [0.008 ; 0.60] respectively. The p-values
427 for the Hermans-Rasson test on start and peak breeding were 0.43 [0.05 ; 0.90] and
428 0.25 [0.011 ; 0.78] respectively. This means that there was no clear pattern between
429 lunar phases and the start of the breeding season or the peak breeding (Figure 3).



430
431 **Figure 3.** Circular histogram showing counts of (A) the originally assigned breeding start dates
432 and (B) the originally assigned peak breeding dates under different lunar phases for the period
433 1982–2021 (e.g., the breeding season started eight times under a moon phase with a lunar
434 angle between 0° and 60°). Lunar angles, initially in radians, were back-transformed to
435 degrees, so that the new moon is at 0° and full moon is at 180°.

436 ***Determinants of individual variation in breeding phenology***

437

438 To better understand if there are among-individual differences in the phenological
439 response to changing climatic variables, we used a linear mixed model to test for the
440 effect of climatic variables on the individual breeding start dates (i.e., the date on
441 which an individual was first captured). We found only a small difference in the
442 response of breeding phenology to climatic variables among individuals (i.e., low
443 values for the random effect ID, both on intercept and slopes, Table 3). We found a
444 strong significant positive effect of PC2 on the breeding dates (17.51 ± 3.27 SE),
445 meaning that stronger precipitation and lower minimum spring temperatures are
446 associated with a delay in the breeding. We also found a significant and strong
447 negative effect of PC1 (-10.14 ± 2.85 SE), indicating that colder winter temperatures
448 and higher SWE are associated with a delay in the breeding. We also found a
449 significant but weak effect of the cosine of the lunar angle (1.57 ± 0.14 SE),
450 suggesting a possible small role of the lunar cycle. Finally, we observed an effect of
451 sex indicating that males arrived on average earlier than females (-1.45 ± 0.14 SE)
452 (Table 3). The 1000 models on the 1000 simulated datasets, ran to assess the
453 robustness of the analysis to imperfect assignment of arrival dates, showed a similar
454 outcome to the main model (Table S3).

Table 3. Detailed description of the model used to check for the effect of environmental variables on the phenology at the individual level. Sex is included to observe differences between males and females. The response variable ArrivalDate is a vector of dates of arrival at the breeding site for each individual over the study period. PC1 and PC2 are the first two components of the PCA performed on the climatic data. Cos(moon) is the cosine of the lunar angle for the arrival date. ID refers to the identity of each individual, and it is used as a random effect on both intercept and the slopes of PC1 and PC2. Finally, Year is included as a random effect to account for additional unexplained variation that might be caused by sampling variation. The second and third part of the table provide details on the estimates for the fixed and random effects respectively. No p-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

Model name	Variables	Conditional R ²		
Full_model	ArrivalDate ~ PC1 + PC2 + Sex + cos(moon) + (1 Year) + (1 ID) + (0 + PC1 ID) + (0 + PC2 ID)	0.92		
	Effect size	Std. Error	t-value	P-value
Intercept	147.87	1.66	89.24	-
Sex (male)	-1.45	0.14	-10.44	< 0.0001*
PC1	-10.14	2.85	-3.56	0.0011*
PC2	17.51	3.27	5.36	< 0.0001*
cos(moon)	1.57	0.14	11.08	< 0.0001*
Variance				
ID (intercept)	2.47			
ID on PC1	2.89			
ID on PC2	0.58			
Year (intercept)	101.78			
Residuals	17.73			

456 ***Repeatability of arrival date***

457

458 In total, 453 females and 1092 males visited the pond over multiple years. The
459 repeatability value calculated with the originally assigned arrival dates was 0.15
460 [95% CI 0.08 ; 0.21] for females and 0.12 [95% CI 0.09 ; 0.15] for males. To again
461 assess the robustness of our analysis we simulated 1000 new datasets with varying
462 arrival dates and calculated 1000 repeatability values for females and 1000 for
463 males. We found a mean repeatability value r of 0.14 [2.5th and 97.5th percentiles
464 0.12 ; 0.17] for females and 0.10 [2.5th and 97.5th percentiles 0.09 ; 0.11] for males.

465 **Discussion**

466

467 Our results show that variation in the breeding phenology is strongly associated with
468 climatic conditions, which vary substantially among years but also show trends
469 across times. We also found low repeatability values and low variability in individual
470 responses, suggesting that the genetic component contributing to the observed
471 variation of individuals in the breeding phenology is weak. Finally, we found
472 indications of a possibly significant, but weak, effect of the lunar cycle. A signal might
473 indeed exist, but the climatic variables probably have a stronger effect.

474

475 Our results support the hypothesis of a strong link between the breeding phenology
476 of high-elevation amphibian populations and climatic conditions. Increasing
477 temperatures are a key driver of snow melt and ground defrosting, which in turn act
478 as important environmental cues for toads to initiate migration to their breeding
479 grounds (Corn & Muths, 2002; Green, 2017). During particularly warm springs, the
480 snow melts and the ground defrosts earlier, leading to a shift of the onset of breeding
481 to earlier dates. Our findings on the importance of temperature are in line with
482 previous studies on *B. bufo* (Reading & Clarke, 1983; Reading, 2003; Tryjanowski et
483 al., 2003; Arnfield et al., 2012). On the other hand, where past studies have identified
484 rainfall to be an important trigger for migration in lowland populations (Reading &
485 Clarke, 1983; Sinsch, 1988; Jarvis et al., 2021), we did not clearly observe this in our
486 data, as our measure of precipitation included both snow- and rainfall. We found that
487 a higher amount of precipitation in spring (combined with a decrease of spring
488 temperature) was associated with a later breeding date. In fact, at low temperatures,
489 precipitation in the form of snowfall or freezing rain can delay the melting of the snow

490 cover, therefore leading to a delay in the breeding. The observed negative
491 association between snow water equivalent (SWE) and breeding timing is in line with
492 the rest of the findings. In fact, SWE depends considerably on temperatures and
493 precipitation, as well as other aspects such as exposition, and it is a key factor that
494 influences phenology (Corn, 2003). The very similar trend observed for peak activity
495 in breeding indicates that both start and peak breeding are influenced mostly in the
496 same way by the same climatic variables.

497
498 When looking at the individual timing of arrival we still found an important effect on
499 the breeding phenology of PC1 (T_w and $SWE_{Sp/W}$) and PC2 (T_{Sp} and $Prec_{Sp}$) (Table
500 3). However, we found only non-significant and small among-individual variation in
501 phenological response to changing climatic conditions (Table 3). As reproduction
502 happens only once a year in explosive breeders living in temperate zones,
503 synchronisation in breeding could be key to maximise reproductive output (Ims,
504 1990). Such an accurate synchronisation can be achieved more easily when all
505 individuals hibernating close to each other express similar responses to external
506 cues triggering their migration to the breeding pond, instead of responding
507 individually in different ways, highlighting once more that the breeding phenology is
508 mainly driven by climatic conditions.

509 Moreover, the low values of r (i.e., the upper limit of heritability) that we found
510 for the timing of arrival show that there is some individual heterogeneity in this trait,
511 and it could further indicate that there is only a small contribution of the genetic
512 component to variation in the breeding phenology. This conclusion is in line with
513 what most studies on amphibian phenology found (Semlitsch et al., 1993; Blaustein
514 et al., 2001; Parmesan, 2007; While & Uller, 2014; but see Heusser & Ott, 1968;

515 Phillimore et al., 2010). In other species, for instance birds, higher values of
516 repeatability have been found for migration phenology, a trait linked to breeding.
517 Franklin et al. (2022) found in their meta-analysis an average value of repeatability of
518 0.414, while Kürten et al. (2022) found repeatability values above 0.60 for various
519 traits (but see Clermont et al., 2018; Vaillant et al., 2021 for examples of low
520 repeatability in birds), but in amphibians that follow an explosive breeding strategy,
521 the genetic component does not appear to be the main determinant of variation in
522 breeding phenology. This might be due to either populations being truly able to
523 respond plastically to changing climatic conditions, and therefore there is no strong
524 selection on genetic variation in the trait, or there might be little genetic variation in
525 the population to begin with. Low values of repeatability might also indicate a non-
526 consistent choice of the hibernation site (and therefore distance to the pond). Not
527 much is known about hibernation site fidelity in anurans, and future studies should
528 address this question.

529

530 Finally, we found that on average males tend to arrive earlier than females (Table 3),
531 similarly to what has been found in lowland populations of *B. bufo* (Loman &
532 Madsen, 1986; Höglund & Robertson, 1987, 1988; but see Gittins et al., 1980). In
533 these studies, males, especially bigger ones, were observed to arrive on average
534 earlier at the breeding pond. Smaller males, on the other hand, were observed
535 intercepting females on their way to the pond, betting on the fact that the females
536 would lay the eggs as soon as they arrived at the pond, avoiding competition from
537 the other bigger males. A more detailed future analysis of body size and its effects
538 on the timing of migration to the breeding site could confirm this theory also for our
539 study population.

540 Climate change is leading to on-average increasing temperatures both globally but
541 also at smaller scales such as in the European Alps (Vitasse et al., 2021) and in
542 Switzerland (Rebetez & Reinhard, 2008). The start of data collection for this study
543 (early 1980s) coincides with an important increase of temperatures in Switzerland
544 (Bundesamt für Umwelt (BAFU), 2020). In fact, each year since the mid-80s, the
545 deviation from the mean yearly temperature (average calculated over the period
546 1864–2019) has always been positive (Begert & Frei, 2018). In the Swiss Alps, mean
547 temperature increased by about 1.7 °C from 1975 to 2004, nearly twice the global
548 average (Rebetez & Reinhard, 2008). Despite these general trends, we observe at
549 our study site stable or even decreasing trends in temperatures during the study
550 period, especially in the second half (Figure 2). Initially, the shift towards earlier
551 breeding (pre-1993/1996) can be explained by warming temperatures and
552 decreasing SWE (Figure 2). On the other hand, the absence of a trend in the
553 breeding dates observed after the mid-1990s (Figure 1) could be explained by a
554 change in trajectories of winter temperature, which started decreasing around 1990
555 (Figure 2), as well as of winter and spring SWE, which started increasing around the
556 same time. These combined changes are acting against the increasing spring
557 temperature (which has increased until around 2007; Figure 2), therefore slowing
558 down and ultimately halting the shift towards earlier breeding dates of the toads.

559 While we could expect climate change to act linearly on the shift towards
560 earlier breeding dates, it is possible that other site-specific conditions prevail at
561 different temporal and geographical scales, creating an heterogenous mosaic of
562 climate conditions. An example of this is the influence of the North Atlantic
563 Oscillation (NAO) on the breeding phenology of amphibians and reptiles in southern
564 France, where shifts in the breeding phenology in the last forty years were related to

565 variation in the NAO index (Prodon et al., 2020). High elevation habitats can also
566 show different climates at very small geographical scales (Scherrer & Körner, 2011;
567 Feldmeier et al., 2020). The phenology of populations experiencing these different
568 microclimates will therefore not necessarily be affected in the same way (Miller et al.,
569 2018; Arietta et al., 2020; Turner & Maclean, 2022). In our case, the data on climatic
570 variables was limited to the 100 metres x 100 metres cell which includes the pond,
571 and since we do not exactly know where the toads hibernate in the surrounding
572 landscape, we cannot exclude that they are experiencing different microclimates
573 compared to the pond and its surrounding area. Hibernating toads have been found
574 more than 1000 metres away from the breeding site horizontally, and up to almost
575 400 metres away vertically (Sztatecsny & Schabetsberger, 2005). Since the breeding
576 pond and surrounding area are often still partially covered by snow during peak
577 night, the hibernation sites are probably warmer than the breeding site itself.
578 Differences in microclimates between hibernation sites and breeding site could
579 further explain individual variation in breeding timing (e.g., arrival at the pond).
580 Further studies on how the hibernation sites of the toads in this population can affect
581 the breeding phenology should be conducted.

582

583 Despite the observed stabilisation of the trend of the breeding dates (Figure 1), the
584 study population appears to experience increased variation in the dates of the start
585 of the breeding season (Figure S2 and Figure S3). This increased variation could be
586 explained by extreme weather events whose occurrence is expected to increase
587 under climate change (Rahmstorf & Coumou, 2011; National Academies of
588 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016). Such unpredictability and extremeness
589 of environmental conditions could threaten populations if they lead to either

590 excessively early or late breeding, especially in temperate regions. In fact, extreme
591 early breeding is associated with reduced hibernation periods which can decrease
592 the body condition in spring (Reading, 2007). Additionally, early breeding can expose
593 eggs and tadpoles to late frost events (Muir et al., 2014; Bison et al., 2021; Turner &
594 Maclean, 2022). Delayed breeding can potentially pose a problem as well if the pond
595 dries out during warm periods in late spring or if juveniles cannot accomplish full
596 growth before hibernation. Indeed, smaller and younger juveniles are more at risk of
597 death before and during the first hibernation period (Morin et al., 1990; Sinsch &
598 Schäfer, 2016). This seems to be compensated in some cases by an accelerated
599 growth at the larval stage in case of late breeding, but with a cost of reduced
600 defences against predation (Orizaola et al., 2016). Such riskful situations can have
601 strong negative effects on individual survival and reproductive output, ultimately
602 leading to population declines (Reading, 2007; Iler et al., 2021). On the other hand,
603 at least initially, climate change could lead to longer growing seasons during which
604 individuals would have the opportunity to gather more energy before the onset of
605 hibernation (Zani, 2008; Iler et al., 2021), with potentially positive effects at the
606 population level. Climate change can as well lead to species expanding upward
607 (Vitasse et al., 2021), with *Bufo bufo* populations observed locally extending their
608 upper range limit to higher elevations (Lüscher et al., 2016). If moving upwards is not
609 possible, high-elevation populations adapted to their environments could face local
610 extirpation (Urban, 2018).

611 **Conclusion**

612

613 In this study we showed the important association between climatic variables such
614 as temperature, snow cover, and precipitation with the breeding phenology of a *Bufo*
615 *bufo* population living at high elevations. Breeding happens on average around 30
616 days earlier now compared to four decades ago, and interestingly the shift towards
617 earlier breeding dates has not been constant, but is better described by two different
618 trends. After an initial steep advancement until the mid-90s, the trend stabilised. This
619 is reflected in the trends of the time series of the focal climatic variables, which
620 explain the observed temporal variation in breeding phenology. The stabilisation in
621 the trend suggests that there might be spatial heterogeneity in climate change and
622 its effects, therefore different populations might show different trends in their
623 breeding phenology. This stabilisation is accompanied by an increased variation in
624 the dates of the start of the breeding season, with potential consequences for the
625 population that should be further investigated in the future. To conclude, this 40-year
626 study is one of the first and most detailed studies on the breeding phenology of
627 alpine populations of *B. bufo*, and it highlights the influence of changing
628 environmental conditions on the timing of reproduction.

629 **Acknowledgements**

630 We warmly thank all the people involved in data collection and management since
631 1982 and everybody who facilitated fieldwork during the past 40 years. Capture,
632 handling and marking of toads were done under an animal welfare permit issued by
633 the Veterinäramt des Kantons Bern. We also thank the Land Change Science of the
634 Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL for kindly providing us with the climatic data.
635 Finally, we thank Sergio Estay, Nigel Yoccoz and an anonymous reviewer for
636 comments on a previous version of the manuscript.

637

638 **Authors contribution**

639 O.L. and B.S. conceived the study. K.G., S.Z., S.A., B.L., D.S., M.T., and H.R.
640 collected data. O.L. prepared and analysed the data. B.S and A.O. provided
641 feedback on the analyses. O.L. wrote the paper with input from all authors.

642

643 **Data and script accessibility**

644 Data and scripts for this publication are available on the Zenodo Repository:
645 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7333319>.

646

647 **Supplementary material**

648 Extra tables and figures are available in the Appendix.

649 **Conflict of interest and disclosure**

650 The authors of this preprint declare that they have no financial conflict of interest with
651 the content of this article.

652

653 **Funding**

654 This project was funded by the Federal Office for the Environment (contract
655 numbers: 20.0001.PJ/46DBED0F1 and 06.0126-PZ Artenförderung / N494-1379)
656 and the Stiftung Temperatio.

657 **References**

- 658 Agostinelli, C., & Lund, U. (2017). *R package 'circular': Circular statistics*. [https://r-](https://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/circular/)
- 659 [forge.r-project.org/projects/circular/](https://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/circular/)
- 660 Arietta, A. Z. A., Freidenburg, L. K., Urban, M. C., Rodrigues, S. B., Rubinstein, A., &
- 661 Skelly, D. K. (2020). Phenological delay despite warming in wood frog *Rana*
- 662 *sylvatica* reproductive timing: A 20-year study. *Ecography*, 43(12), 1791–
- 663 1800. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.05297>
- 664 Arnfield, H., Grant, R. A., Monk, C., & Uller, T. (2012). Factors influencing the timing
- 665 of spring migration in common toads (*Bufo bufo*): Timing of spring migration in
- 666 toads. *Journal of Zoology*, 288(2), 112–118. [https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.2012.00933.x)
- 667 [7998.2012.00933.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.2012.00933.x)
- 668 Barton, K. (2019). *Multi-Model Inference*.
- 669 Beebee, T. J. C. (1995). Amphibian breeding and climate. *Nature*, 374(6519), 219–
- 670 220. <https://doi.org/10.1038/374219a0>
- 671 Begert, M., & Frei, C. (2018). Long-term area-mean temperature series for
- 672 Switzerland—Combining homogenized station data and high resolution grid
- 673 data. *International Journal of Climatology*, 38(6), 2792–2807.
- 674 <https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.5460>
- 675 Bison, M., Yoccoz, N. G., Carlson, B. Z., Klein, G., Laigle, I., Van Reeth, C., Asse,
- 676 D., & Delestrade, A. (2020). Best environmental predictors of breeding
- 677 phenology differ with elevation in a common woodland bird species. *Ecology*
- 678 *and Evolution*, 10(18), 10219–10229. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6684>
- 679 Bison, M., Yoccoz, N. G., Carlson, B. Z., Klein, G., Laigle, I., Van Reeth, C., &
- 680 Delestrade, A. (2021). Earlier snowmelt advances breeding phenology of the
- 681 common frog (*Rana temporaria*) but increases the risk of frost exposure and

- 682 wetland drying. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 9, 645585.
- 683 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.645585>
- 684 Blaustein, A. R., Belden, L. K., Olson, D. H., Green, D. M., Root, T. L., & Kiesecker,
685 J. M. (2001). Amphibian breeding and climate change. *Conservation Biology*,
686 15(6), 1804–1809. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1523-1739.2001.00307.x>
- 687 Bundesamt für Umwelt (BAFU). (2020). *Klimawandel in der Schweiz* (p. 105).
- 688 Clermont, J., Réale, D., & Giroux, J.-F. (2018). Plasticity in laying dates of Canada
689 geese in response to spring phenology. *Ibis*, 160(3), 597–607.
- 690 <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.12560>
- 691 Corn, P. S. (2003). Amphibian breeding and climate change: Importance of snow in
692 the mountains. *Conservation Biology*, 17(2), 622–625.
- 693 <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1523-1739.2003.02111.x>
- 694 Corn, P. S., & Muths, E. (2002). Variable breeding phenology affects the exposure of
695 amphibian embryos to ultraviolet radiation. *Ecology*, 83(11), 2958–2963.
- 696 [https://doi.org/10.1890/0012-9658\(2002\)083\[2958:VBPATE\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1890/0012-9658(2002)083[2958:VBPATE]2.0.CO;2)
- 697 Diaz, H. F., Grosjean, M., & Graumlich, L. (2003). Climate variability and change in
698 high elevation regions: Past, present and future. *Climatic Change*, 59, 1–4.
- 699 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-015-1252-7_1
- 700 Duellman, W. E., & Trueb, L. (1986). *Biology of Amphibians*. McGraw-Hill Book
701 Company.
- 702 Falconer, D. S. (1981). *Introduction to quantitative genetics* (2d ed.). Longman.
- 703 Feldmeier, S., Schmidt, B. R., Zimmermann, N. E., Veith, M., Ficetola, G. F., &
704 Lötters, S. (2020). Shifting aspect or elevation? The climate change response
705 of ectotherms in a complex mountain topography. *Diversity and Distributions*,
706 26(11), 1483–1495. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13146>

- 707 Ficetola, G. F., & Maiorano, L. (2016). Contrasting effects of temperature and
708 precipitation change on amphibian phenology, abundance and performance.
709 *Oecologia*, 181(3), 683–693. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-016-3610-9>
- 710 Fitak, R. R., & Johnsen, S. (2017). Bringing the analysis of animal orientation data
711 full circle: Model-based approaches with maximum likelihood. *Journal of*
712 *Experimental Biology*, 220(21), 3878–3882.
713 <https://doi.org/10.1242/jeb.167056>
- 714 Franklin, K. A., Nicoll, M. A. C., Butler, S. J., Norris, K., Ratcliffe, N., Nakagawa, S.,
715 & Gill, J. A. (2022). Individual repeatability of avian migration phenology: A
716 systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 91(7),
717 1416–1430. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13697>
- 718 Garner, T. W. J., Rowcliffe, J. M., & Fisher, M. C. (2011). Climate change,
719 chytridiomycosis or condition: An experimental test of amphibian survival.
720 *Global Change Biology*, 17(2), 667–675. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2010.02272.x>
- 721
- 722 Gelman, A. (2008). Scaling regression inputs by dividing by two standard deviations.
723 *Statistics in Medicine*, 27(15), 2865–2873. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.3107>
- 724 Gittins, S. P., Parker, A. G., & Slater, F. M. (1980). Population characteristics of the
725 common toad (*Bufo bufo*) visiting a breeding site in Mid-Wales. *Journal of*
726 *Animal Ecology*, 49(1), 161–173. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4281>
- 727 Gotthard, K. (2001). Growth strategies of ectothermic animals in temperate
728 environments. In D. Atkinson & M. Thorndyke (Eds.), *Environment and animal*
729 *development: Genes, life histories and plasticity* (pp. 287–304). BIOS
730 Scientific.
- 731 Grant, R. A., Chadwick, E. A., & Halliday, T. R. (2009). The lunar cycle: A cue for

- 732 amphibian reproductive phenology? *Animal Behaviour*, 78(2), 349–357.
- 733 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2009.05.007>
- 734 Green, D. M. (2017). Amphibian breeding phenology trends under climate change:
735 Predicting the past to forecast the future. *Global Change Biology*, 23(2), 646–
736 656. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.13390>
- 737 Green, T., Das, E., & Green, D. M. (2016). Springtime emergence of overwintering
738 toads, *Anaxyrus fowleri*, in relation to environmental factors. *Copeia*, 104(2),
739 393–401. <https://doi.org/10.1643/CE-15-323>
- 740 Grossenbacher, K. (2002). First results of a 20-year-study on common toad *Bufo*
741 *bufo* in the Swiss Alps. *Biota*, 3(1–2), 43–48.
- 742 Hartel, T., Sas-Kovacs, I., Pernetta, A., & Geltsch, I. (2007). The reproductive
743 dynamics of temperate amphibians: A review. *North-Western Journal of*
744 *Zoology*, 3.
- 745 Hemelaar, A. (1988). Age, growth and other population characteristics of *Bufo bufo*
746 from different latitudes and altitudes. *Journal of Herpetology*, 22(4), 369.
747 <https://doi.org/10.2307/1564332>
- 748 Heusser, H., & Ott, J. (1968). Sollzeit der Laichwanderung bei der Erdkröte, *Bufo*
749 *bufo* (L.). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie*, 75, 1005–1022.
- 750 Höglund, J., & Robertson, J. G. M. (1987). Random mating by size in a population of
751 common toads (*Bufo bufo*). *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 8(4), 321–330.
752 <https://doi.org/10.1163/156853887X00108>
- 753 Höglund, J., & Robertson, J. G. M. (1988). Chorusing behaviour, a density-
754 dependent alternative mating strategy in male common toads (*Bufo bufo*).
755 *Ethology*, 79(4), 324–332. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0310.1988.tb00721.x>
- 756 Iler, A. M., CaraDonna, P. J., Forrest, J. R. K., & Post, E. (2021). Demographic

- 757 consequences of phenological shifts in response to climate change. *Annual*
758 *Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*, 52(1), annurev-ecolsys-
759 011921-032939. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-ecolsys-011921-032939>
- 760 Ims, R. A. (1990). The ecology and evolution of reproductive synchrony. *Trends in*
761 *Ecology & Evolution*, 5(5), 135–140. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-
762 5347\(90\)90218-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-5347(90)90218-3)
- 763 Jara, F. G., Thurman, L. L., Montiglio, P.-O., Sih, A., & Garcia, T. S. (2019).
764 Warming-induced shifts in amphibian phenology and behavior lead to altered
765 predator–prey dynamics. *Oecologia*, 189(3), 803–813.
766 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-019-04360-w>
- 767 Jarvis, L. E., Grant, R. A., & SenGupta, A. (2021). Lunar phase as a cue for
768 migrations to two species of explosive breeding amphibians—Implications for
769 conservation. *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, 67(1), 11.
770 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-020-01453-3>
- 771 Keiler, M., Knight, J., & Harrison, S. (2010). Climate change and geomorphological
772 hazards in the eastern European Alps. *Philosophical Transactions of the*
773 *Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*,
774 368(1919), 2461–2479. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2010.0047>
- 775 Kokko, H. (1999). Competition for early arrival in migratory birds. *Journal of Animal*
776 *Ecology*, 68(5), 940–950. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2656.1999.00343.x>
- 777 Körner, C., & Hiltbrunner, E. (2021). Why is the alpine flora comparatively robust
778 against climatic warming? *Diversity*, 13(8), 383.
779 <https://doi.org/10.3390/d13080383>
- 780 Kovar, R., Brabec, M., Bocek, R., & Vita, R. (2009). Spring migration distances of
781 some Central European amphibian species. *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 30(3), 367–

- 782 378. <https://doi.org/10.1163/156853809788795236>
- 783 Kürten, N., Schmaljohann, H., Bichet, C., Haest, B., Vedder, O., González-Solís, J.,
784 & Bouwhuis, S. (2022). High individual repeatability of the migratory behaviour
785 of a long-distance migratory seabird. *Movement Ecology*, 10(1), 5.
786 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40462-022-00303-y>
- 787 Kuznetsova, A., Brockhoff, P. B., & Christensen, R. H. B. (2017). lmerTest Package:
788 Tests in linear mixed effects models. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 82(13),
789 1–26.
- 790 Landler, L., Ruxton, G. D., & Malkemper, E. P. (2018). Circular data in biology:
791 Advice for effectively implementing statistical procedures. *Behavioral Ecology*
792 *and Sociobiology*, 72(8), 128. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-018-2538-y>
- 793 Lazaridis, E. (2014). *lunar: Lunar phase and distance, seasons and other*
794 *environmental factors* (Version 0.1-04).
- 795 Lessells, C. M., & Boag, P. T. (1987). Unrepeatable repeatabilities: A common
796 mistake. *The Auk*, 104(1), 116–121. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4087240>
- 797 Loman, J., & Madsen, T. (1986). Reproductive tactics of large and small male toads
798 *Bufo bufo*. *Oikos*, 46(1), 57. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3565380>
- 799 Lüscher, B., Beer, S., & Grossenbacher, K. (2016). Die Höhenverbreitung der
800 Erdkröte (*Bufo bufo*) im Berner Oberland (Schweiz) unter sich verändernden
801 Klimabedingungen. *Zeitschrift für Feldherpetologie*, 23, 47–58.
- 802 Miller, D. A. W., Grant, E. H. C., Muths, E., Amburgey, S. M., Adams, M. J., Joseph,
803 M. B., Waddle, J. H., Johnson, P. T. J., Ryan, M. E., Schmidt, B. R., Calhoun,
804 D. L., Davis, C. L., Fisher, R. N., Green, D. M., Hossack, B. R., Rittenhouse,
805 T. A. G., Walls, S. C., Bailey, L. L., Cruickshank, S. S., ... Sigafus, B. H.
806 (2018). Quantifying climate sensitivity and climate-driven change in North

- 807 American amphibian communities. *Nature Communications*, 9(1), 3926.
808 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-06157-6>
- 809 Morin, P. J., Lawler, S. P., & Johnson, E. A. (1990). Ecology and breeding phenology
810 of larval *Hyla andersonii*: The disadvantages of breeding late. *Ecology*, 71(4),
811 1590–1598. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1938294>
- 812 Muggeo, V. M. R. (2008). Segmented: An R package to fit regression models with
813 broken-line. *R News*, 8(1), 20–25.
- 814 Muir, A. P., Biek, R., Thomas, R., & Mable, B. K. (2014). Local adaptation with high
815 gene flow: Temperature parameters drive adaptation to altitude in the
816 common frog (*Rana temporaria*). *Molecular Ecology*, 23(3), 561–574.
817 <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.12624>
- 818 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2016). *Attribution of*
819 *extreme weather events in the context of climate change*. National Academies
820 Press.
- 821 Nogués-Bravo, D., Araújo, M. B., Errea, M. P., & Martínez-Rica, J. P. (2007).
822 Exposure of global mountain systems to climate warming during the 21st
823 Century. *Global Environmental Change*, 17(3–4), 420–428.
824 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2006.11.007>
- 825 Nufio, C. R., McGuire, C. R., Bowers, M. D., & Guralnick, R. P. (2010). Grasshopper
826 community response to climatic change: Variation along an elevational
827 gradient. *PLoS ONE*, 5(9), 1–11.
828 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0012977>
- 829 Orizaola, G., Richter-Boix, A., & Laurila, A. (2016). Transgenerational effects and
830 impact of compensatory responses to changes in breeding phenology on
831 antipredator defenses. *Ecology*, 97(9), 2470–2478.

- 832 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.1464>
- 833 Oseen, K. L., & Wassersug, R. J. (2002). Environmental factors influencing calling in
834 sympatric anurans. *Oecologia*, 133(4), 616–625.
- 835 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-002-1067-5>
- 836 Parmesan, C. (2007). Influences of species, latitudes and methodologies on
837 estimates of phenological response to global warming. *Global Change*
838 *Biology*, 13(9), 1860–1872. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2007.01404.x>
- 839 Parmesan, C., & Yohe, G. (2003). A globally coherent fingerprint of climate change
840 impacts across natural systems. *Nature*, 421(6918), 37–42.
- 841 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature01286>
- 842 Phillimore, A. B., Hadfield, J. D., Jones, O. R., & Smithers, R. J. (2010). Differences
843 in spawning date between populations of common frog reveal local
844 adaptation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107(18),
845 8292–8297. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0913792107>
- 846 Pollock, K. H. (1982). A capture-recapture design robust to unequal probability of
847 capture. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 46(3), 752–757.
- 848 <https://doi.org/10.2307/3808568>
- 849 Prodon, R., Geniez, P., Cheylan, M., & Besnard, A. (2020). Amphibian and reptile
850 phenology: The end of the warming hiatus and the influence of the NAO in the
851 North Mediterranean. *International Journal of Biometeorology*, 64(3), 423–
852 432. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-019-01827-6>
- 853 Quinn, J. A., & Wetherington, J. D. (2002). Genetic variability and phenotypic
854 plasticity in flowering phenology in populations of two grasses. *The Journal of*
855 *the Torrey Botanical Society*, 129(2), 96–106. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3088723>
- 856 R Core Team. (2020). *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. R

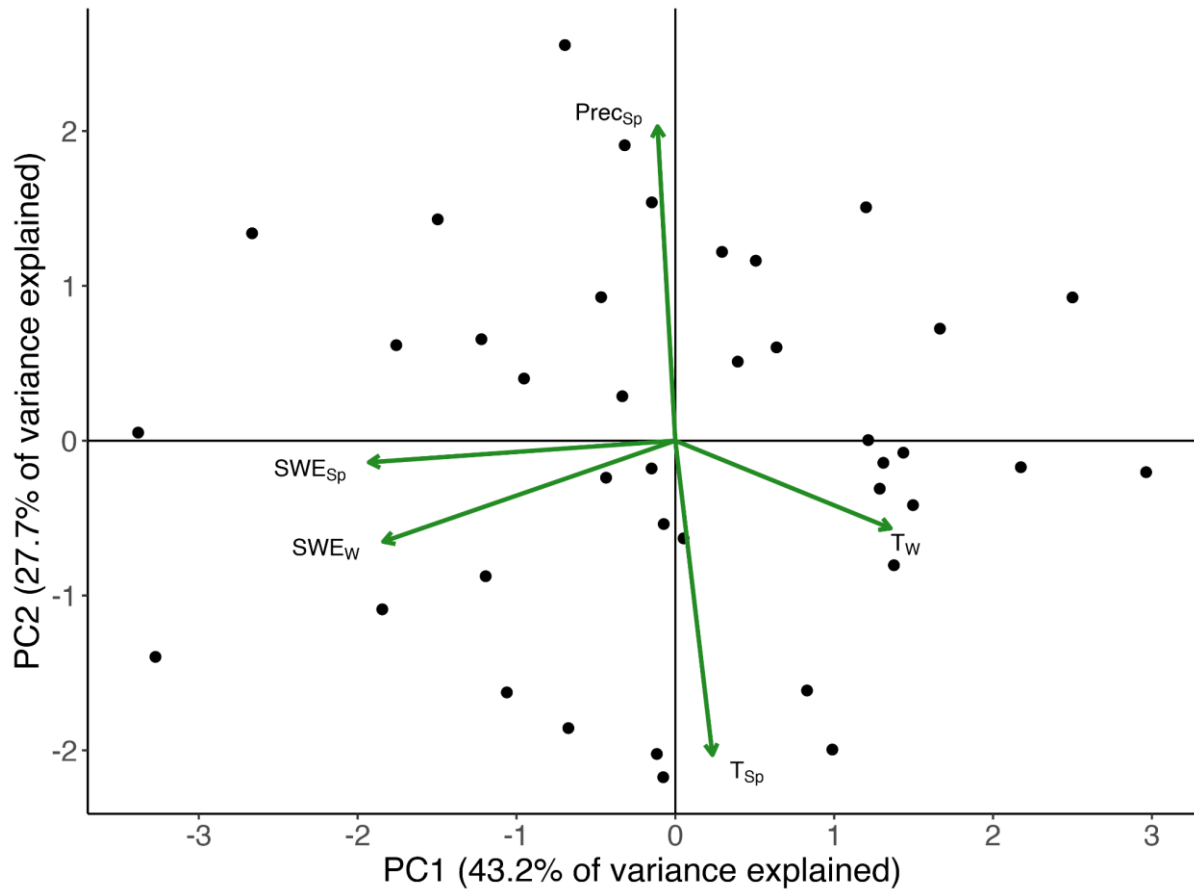
- 857 *foundation for statistical computing, Vienna, Austria. URL [https://www.R-](https://www.R-project.org/)*
858 *project.org/.*
- 859 R Studio Team. (2022). *RStudio: Integrated Development for R*. RStudio, PBC.,
860 Boston, MA.
- 861 Rahmstorf, S., & Coumou, D. (2011). Increase of extreme events in a warming
862 world. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108(44), 17905–
863 17909. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1101766108>
- 864 Reading, C. J. (2003). The effects of variation in climatic temperature (1980–2001)
865 on breeding activity and tadpole stage duration in the common toad, *Bufo*
866 *bufo*. *Science of The Total Environment*, 310(1–3), 231–236.
867 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-9697\(02\)00643-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-9697(02)00643-5)
- 868 Reading, C. J. (2007). Linking global warming to amphibian declines through its
869 effects on female body condition and survivorship. *Oecologia*, 151(1), 125–
870 131. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-006-0558-1>
- 871 Reading, C. J. (2010). The impact of environmental temperature on larval
872 development and metamorph body condition in the common toad, *Bufo bufo*.
873 *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 31(4), 483–488.
874 <https://doi.org/10.1163/017353710X521537>
- 875 Reading, C. J., & Clarke, R. T. (1983). Male breeding behaviour and mate
876 acquisition in the common toad, *Bufo bufo*. *Journal of Zoology*, 201(2), 237–
877 246. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1983.tb04273.x>
- 878 Reading, C. J., & Clarke, R. T. (1999). Impacts of climate and density on the duration
879 of the tadpole stage of the common toad *Bufo bufo*. *Oecologia*, 121(3), 310–
880 315. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s004420050933>
- 881 Rebetez, M., & Reinhard, M. (2008). Monthly air temperature trends in Switzerland

- 882 1901–2000 and 1975–2004. *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*, 91(1), 27–
883 34. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00704-007-0296-2>
- 884 Reinhardt, T., Steinfartz, S., & Weitere, M. (2015). Inter-annual weather variability
885 can drive the outcome of predator prey match in ponds. *Amphibia-Reptilia*,
886 36(2), 97–109. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685381-00002982>
- 887 Scherrer, D., & Körner, C. (2011). Topographically controlled thermal-habitat
888 differentiation buffers alpine plant diversity against climate warming. *Journal*
889 *of Biogeography*, 38(2), 406–416. [https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2699.2010.02407.x)
890 [2699.2010.02407.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2699.2010.02407.x)
- 891 Semlitsch, R. D. (1985). Analysis of climatic factors influencing migrations of the
892 salamander *Ambystoma talpoideum*. *Copeia*, 1985(2), 477–489.
893 <https://doi.org/10.2307/1444862>
- 894 Semlitsch, R. D., Scott, D. E., Pechmann, J. H. K., & Gibbons, J. W. (1993).
895 Phenotypic variation in the arrival time of breeding salamanders: Individual
896 repeatability and environmental influences. *The Journal of Animal Ecology*,
897 62(2), 334. <https://doi.org/10.2307/5364>
- 898 Sinsch, U. (1988). Seasonal changes in the migratory behaviour of the toad *Bufo*
899 *bufo*: Direction and magnitude of movements. *Oecologia*, 76, 390–398.
- 900 Sinsch, U., & Schäfer, A. M. (2016). Density regulation in toad populations (*Epidalea*
901 *calamita*, *Bufo viridis*) by differential winter survival of juveniles. *Journal of*
902 *Thermal Biology*, 55, 20–29. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2015.11.007>
- 903 Stoffel, M. A., Nakagawa, S., & Schielzeth, H. (2017). rptR: repeatability estimation
904 and variance decomposition by generalized linear mixed-effects models.
905 *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 8, 1639–1644.
906 <https://doi.org/doi:10.1111/2041-210X.12797>

- 907 Sztatecsny, M., & Schabetsberger, R. (2005). Into thin air: Vertical migration, body
908 condition, and quality of terrestrial habitats of alpine common toads, *Bufo*
909 *bufo*. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, *83*, 788–796.
- 910 Tang, J., Körner, C., Muraoka, H., Piao, S., Shen, M., Thackeray, S. J., & Yang, X.
911 (2016). Emerging opportunities and challenges in phenology: A review.
912 *Ecosphere*, *7*(8), e01436. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.1436>
- 913 Thompson, L. (2000). Ice core evidence for climate change in the Tropics:
914 Implications for our future. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, *19*, 19–35.
915 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0277-3791\(99\)00052-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0277-3791(99)00052-9)
- 916 Thornton, P. E., Running, S. W., & White, M. A. (1997). Generating surfaces of daily
917 meteorological variables over large regions of complex terrain. *Journal of*
918 *Hydrology*, *190*(3), 214–251. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-1694\(96\)03128-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-1694(96)03128-9)
- 919 Todd, B., Scott, D., Pechmann, J., & Gibbons, J. (2011). Climate change correlates
920 with rapid delays and advancements in reproductive timing in an amphibian
921 community. *Proceedings. Biological Sciences / The Royal Society*, *278*,
922 2191–2197. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2010.1768>
- 923 Tryjanowski, P., Rybacki, M., & Sparks, T. (2003). Changes in the first spawning
924 dates of common frogs and common toads in western Poland in 1978–2002.
925 *Annales Zoologici Fennici*, *40*, 459–464.
- 926 Turner, R. K., & Maclean, I. M. D. (2022). Microclimate-driven trends in spring-
927 emergence phenology in a temperate reptile (*Vipera berus*): Evidence for a
928 potential “climate trap”? *Ecology and Evolution*, *12*(2), e8623.
929 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.8623>
- 930 Urban, M. C. (2018). Escalator to extinction. *Proceedings of the National Academy of*
931 *Sciences*, *115*(47), 11871–11873. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1817416115>

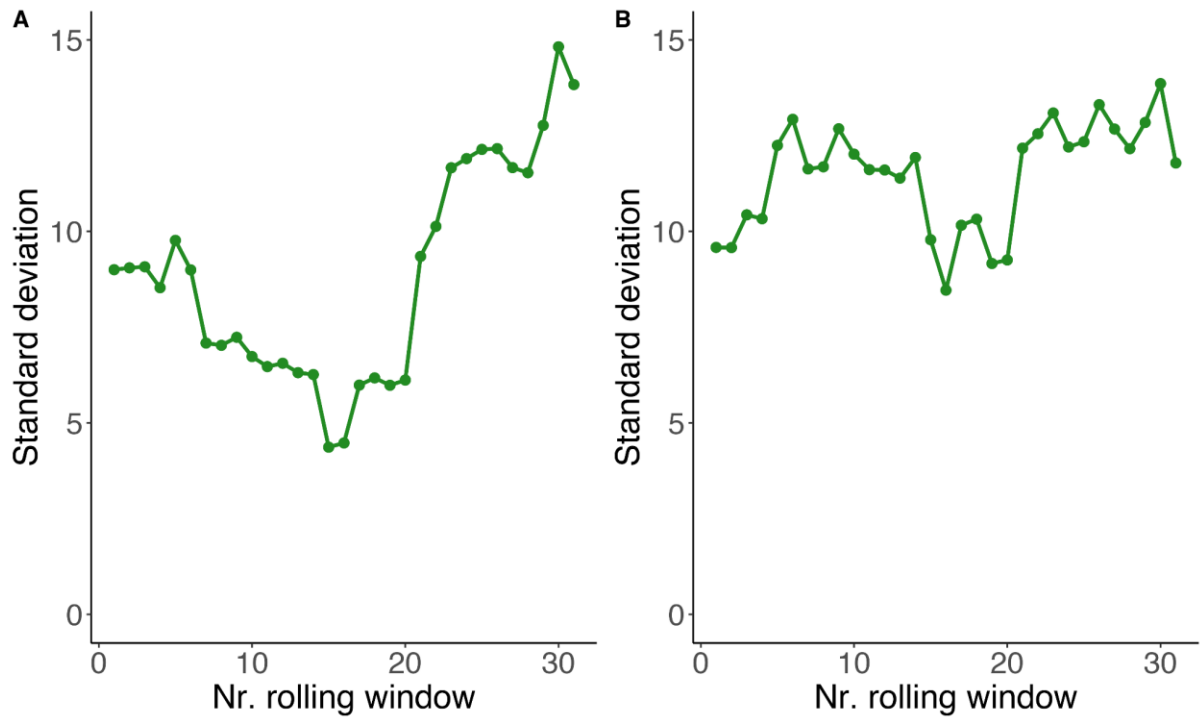
- 932 Vaillant, J. L., Potti, J., Camacho, C., Canal, D., & Martínez-Padilla, J. (2021). Low
933 repeatability of breeding events reflects flexibility in reproductive timing in the
934 pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* in Spain. *Ardeola*, 69(1), 21–39.
935 <https://doi.org/10.13157/arla.69.1.2022.ra2>
- 936 Visser, M. E., & Gienapp, P. (2019). Evolutionary and demographic consequences of
937 phenological mismatches. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 3(6), 879–885.
938 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-019-0880-8>
- 939 Vitasse, Y., Ursenbacher, S., Klein, G., Bohnenstengel, T., Chittaro, Y., Delestrade,
940 A., Monnerat, C., Rebetez, M., Rixen, C., Strebel, N., Schmidt, B. R., Wipf, S.,
941 Wohlgemuth, T., Yoccoz, N. G., & Lenoir, J. (2021). Phenological and
942 elevational shifts of plants, animals and fungi under climate change in the
943 European Alps. *Biological Reviews*, 96(5), 1816–1835.
944 <https://doi.org/10.1111/brv.12727>
- 945 Wells, K. D. (1977). The social behaviour of anuran amphibians. *Animal Behaviour*,
946 25, 666–693. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-3472\(77\)90118-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-3472(77)90118-X)
- 947 While, G. M., & Uller, T. (2014). Quo vadis amphibia? Global warming and breeding
948 phenology in frogs, toads and salamanders. *Ecography*, 37(10), 921–929.
949 <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.00521>
- 950 Zani, P. A. (2008). Climate change trade-offs in the side-blotched lizard (*Uta*
951 *stansburiana*): Effects of growing-season length and mild temperatures on
952 winter survival. *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology*, 81(6), 797–809.
953 <https://doi.org/10.1086/588305>
- 954 Zeileis, A., & Grothendieck, G. (2005). zoo: S3 infrastructure for regular and irregular
955 time series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 14, 1–27.
956 <https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v014.i06>

957 **Appendix**



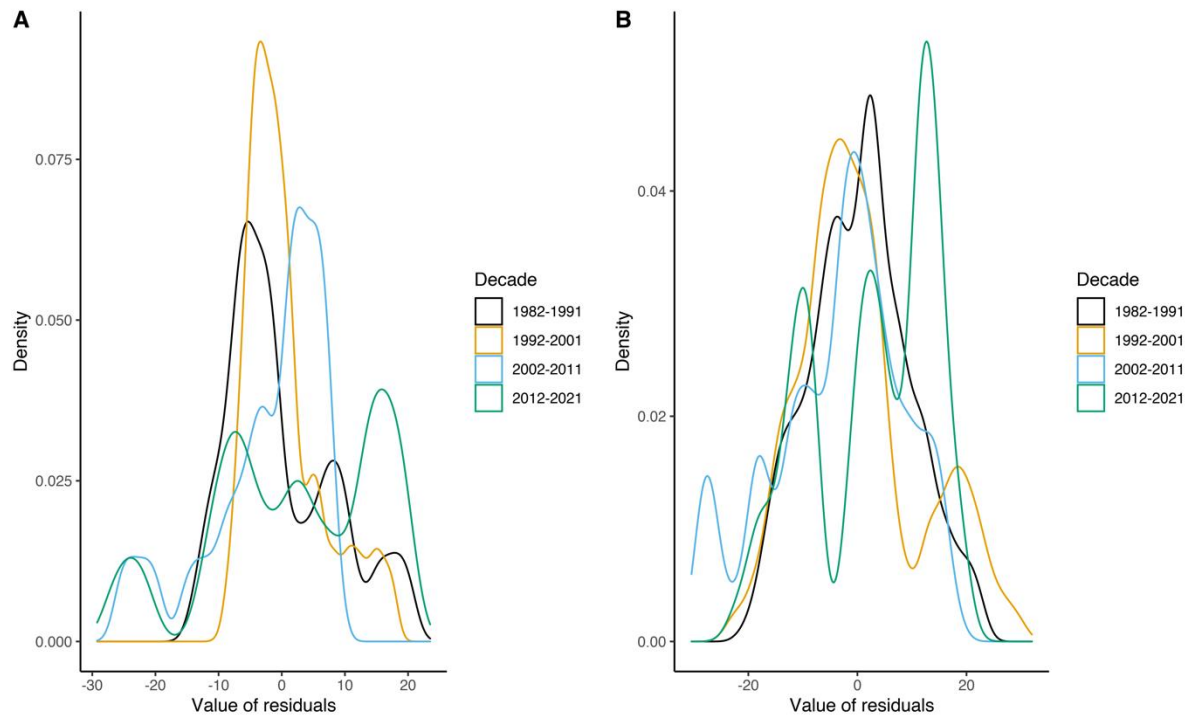
958

959 **Figure S1.** Graphical visualisation of the first two principal components of our principal
960 component analysis. The points represent the scores over the two axes, while the arrows
961 represent the loadings of the five environmental variables. The first principal component
962 explained 43.2% of the variance in the data, while the second principal component explained
963 27.7%. T_{Sp} is the average minimum daily spring temperature, T_W is the average minimum daily
964 winter temperature, $Prec_{Sp}$ is the total precipitation in spring, SWE_{Sp} is the total spring snow
965 water equivalent and SWE_W is the total winter snow water equivalent



966
967
968
969
970
971

Figure S2. Mean standard deviation of the residuals of the 1000 piecewise regressions on start of the breeding season (A) and 1000 piecewise regression on peak of the breeding season (B), calculated with a rolling window approach. Window size was 25% of the length of the timeseries (i.e., 10 years out of 40 years, therefore we had 31 windows).



972

973

974

975

976

977

Figure S3. Distribution of the residuals of the 1000 piecewise regression on start of the breeding season (A) and peak breeding (B). We divided the residuals in four different decades: decade 1 (1982-1991), decade 2 (1992-2001), decade 3 (2002-2011) and decade 4 (2012-2021).

Table S1. Summary of the simulated piecewise regressions on the start and peak of the breeding season. For both intercept and slopes we show the estimate, its standard error, and the t-value and p-value associated with it. Moreover, for each parameter we show in square brackets the 2.5th and the 97.5th percentiles of the values obtained by running 1000 models. Slope1 refers to the segment before the breakpoint and Slope2 refers to the segment after the breakpoint. Asterisks next to the p-values show significance at the 0.05 level. The p-value for Slope2 is NA since standard asymptotics do not apply (Muggeo, 2008). No p-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

	Estimates	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	
Start	Intercept	166.59 [164.24 ; 169.07]	5.70 [5.22 ; 6.17]	29.29 [27.03 ; 31.87]	-
	Slope1	-3.11 [-3.60 ; -2.78]	0.95 [0.81 ; 1.11]	-3.30 [-3.85 ; -2.86]	0.0027* [0.0005 ; 0.0069]
	Slope2	0.062 [-0.043 ; 0.16]	0.23 [0.21 ; 0.25]	0.271 [-0.201 ; 0.679]	NA
	Breakpoint	1993	2.30 [1.93 ; 2.69]	-	< 0.001* [0.00013 ; 0.0020]
Peak	Intercept	174.47 [167.99 ; 179.56]	5.52 [4.11 ; 6.88]	32.34 [25.78 ; 41.35]	-
	Slope1	-2.10 [-3.10 ; -1.12]	0.67 [0.26 ; 1.16]	-3.43 [-4.69 ; -2.38]	0.0046* [< 0.001 ; 0.022]
	Slope2	0.41 [-0.11 ; 1.62]	0.47 [0.25 ; 1.11]	0.54 [-0.40 ; 1.64]	NA
	Breakpoint	1993 / 1996	3.17 [2.52 ; 3.83]	-	0.0023* [0.0005 ; 0.0064]

Table S2. Summary of the simulated linear regressions on the start and peak of the breeding season. For each variable we show the estimate, its standard error, and the t-value and p-value associated with it. In square brackets we show the 2.5th and the 97.5th percentile values, obtained by simulating 1000 times the dates and running 1000 models. Asterisks next to the p-value show significance at the 0.05 level. No p-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

		Estimates	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
Start	Intercept	138.22 [137.54 ; 139.00]	1.69 [1.58 ; 1.80]	81.93 [76.79 ; 87.63]	-
	PC1	-5.52 [-6.34 ; -4.59]	1.73 [1.60 ; 1.86]	-3.20 [-3.73 ; -2.60]	0.0038* [0.00068 ; 0.013]
	PC2	6.99 [5.98 ; 7.84]	1.75 [1.62 ; 1.90]	4.01 [3.35 ; 4.69]	0.00048* [< 0.0001* ; 0.0019]
	cos(moon)	0.93 [-1.34 ; 2.86]	1.77 [1.63 ; 1.93]	0.53 [-0.72 ; 1.60]	0.55 [0.11 ; 0.97]
Peak	Intercept	150.35 [149.41 ; 151.28]	1.58 [1.45 ; 1.70]	95.43 [88.14 ; 104.06]	-
	PC1	-5.37 [-6.42 ; -4.32]	1.61 [1.48 ; 1.75]	-3.34 [-4.07 ; -2.63]	0.0032* [0.00025 ; 0.012]
	PC2	9.48 [8.38 ; 10.55]	1.62 [1.48 ; 1.76]	5.88 [4.99 ; 6.81]	< 0.0001* [< 0.0001 ; < 0.0001]
	cos(moon)	-2.11 [-4.11 ; -0.22]	1.63 [1.49 ; 1.79]	-1.31 [-2.61 ; -0.14]	0.27 [0.013 ; 0.83]

979

Table S3. Detailed description of the model used to check for the effect of environmental variables on the phenology at the individual level. Sex is included to observe differences between males and females. The response variable *ArrivalDate* is a vector of dates of arrival at the breeding site for each individual over the study period. PC1 and PC2 are the first two components of the PCA performed on the climatic data. *Cos(moon)* is the cosine of the lunar angle for the arrival date. ID refers to the identity of each individual, and it is used as a random effect on both intercept and the slopes of PC1 and PC2. Finally, Year is included as a random effect to account for additional unexplained variation that might be caused by sampling variation. The second and third part of the table provide details on the estimates for the fixed and random effects respectively. The values shown are the mean value out of the 1000 models ran on simulated datasets and in square brackets we show the 2.5th and the 97.5th percentiles of each parameter. No p-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

Model name	Variables	Conditional R ²		
Full_model	ArrivalDate ~ PC1 + PC2 + Sex + cos(moon) + (1 Year) + (1 ID) + (0 + PC1 ID) + (0 + PC2 ID)	0.883 [0.880 ; 0.885]		
	Effect size	Std. Error	t-value	P-value
Intercept	145.86 [145.77 ; 145.95]	1.68 [1.67 ; 1.69]	86.84 [86.25 ; 87.36]	-
Sex (male)	-1.76 [-1.760 ; -1.754]	0.164 [0.162 ; 0.166]	-10.72 [-11.29 ; -10.17]	< 0.0001*
PC1	-10.04 [-10.17 ; -9.91]	2.89 [2.87 ; 2.91]	-3.47 [-3.53 ; -3.42]	0.0014* [0.0012 ; 0.0016]
PC2	16.74 [16.56 ; 16.92]	3.32 [3.29 ; 3.34]	5.05 [4.99 ; 5.10]	< 0.0001*
cos(moon)	1.06 [0.84 ; 1.29]	0.147 [0.145 ; 0.148]	7.26 [5.70 ; 8.76]	< 0.0001*
Variance				
ID (intercept)	3.06 [2.77 ; 3.36]			
ID on PC1	1.96 [1.23 ; 2.72]			
ID on PC2	0.32 [0.00 ; 1.19]			
Year (intercept)	104.37 [103.04 ; 105.82]			
Residuals	26.08 [25.53 ; 26.60]			

Table S4. Summary of the piecewise regressions on the five focal environmental variables. *MinT_Spring* is the average minimum daily spring temperature, *MinT_Winter* is the average minimum daily winter temperature, *Prec_Spring* is the total precipitation in spring, *SWE_Spring* is the total spring snow water equivalent and *SWE_Winter* is the total winter snow water equivalent. We rescaled year to obtain more intuitive intercept estimates (year 1980 = 0). *Slope1* refers to the segment before the breakpoint and *Slope2* refers to the segment after the breakpoint. We also show the statistics associated with the identified breakpoint. Asterisks next to the *p*-values show significance at the 0.05 level. The *p*-value for *Slope2* is NA since standard asymptotics do not apply (Muggeo, 2008). No *p*-values are provided for the intercept because this test is not of biological interest.

		Estimates	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
MinT_Spring	Intercept	-0.82	0.30	-2.76	-
	Slope1	0.07	0.02	3.33	0.002*
	Slope2	-0.05	0.05	-0.87	NA
	Breakpoint	2007	4.60	-1.92	0.06
MinT_Winter	Intercept	-8.88	0.80	-11.10	-
	Slope1	0.24	0.14	1.76	0.09
	Slope2	-0.03	0.03	-1.07	NA
	Breakpoint	1990	3.56	-1.05	0.30
Prec_Spring	Intercept	41.35	6.90	6.00	-
	Slope1	2.26	1.91	1.18	0.24
	Slope2	-0.30	0.18	-1.68	NA
	Breakpoint	1986	3.91	-1.51	0.14
SWE_Spring	Intercept	3654.0	707.3	5.17	-
	Slope1	-219.20	132.49	-1.65	0.11
	Slope2	37.68	24.17	1.56	NA
	Breakpoint	1990	3.55	2.23	0.03*
SWE_Winter	Intercept	2643.3	511.4	5.17	-
	Slope1	-156.42	107.41	-1.46	0.15
	Slope2	28.31	15.93	1.78	NA
	Breakpoint	1989	3.62	1.88	0.07

980

981

Table S5. Details of the five principal components. For each principal component we report its standard deviation, the proportion of variance explained and the cumulative proportion of this variance. In our linear regression we kept the first two principal components as their standard deviation is >1 (i.e. their eigenvalue >1) and combined they explain >70 % of the variance.

	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5
Standard deviation	1.47	1.18	0.83	0.82	0.33
Proportion of variance	0.43	0.28	0.14	0.13	0.02
Cumulative proportion	0.43	0.71	0.85	0.98	1.00

982

983

984

Table S6. Loadings of the five original environmental variables from which the five principal components are constructed. *MinT_Spring* is the average minimum daily spring temperature, *MinT_Winter* is the average minimum daily winter temperature, *Prec_Spring* is the total precipitation in spring, *SWE_Spring* is the total spring snow water equivalent and *SWE_Winter* is the total winter snow water equivalent. PC1 is mainly driven by *MinT_Winter*, *SWE_Spring* and *SWE_Winter*, while PC2 mostly by *MinT_Spring* and *Prec_Spring*.

	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5
MinT_Spring	0.08	-0.68	0.33	-0.65	0.09
MinT_Winter	0.45	-0.19	0.64	0.58	0.07
Prec_Spring	-0.04	0.68	0.60	-0.41	-0.06
SWE_Spring	-0.64	-0.05	0.20	0.17	0.72
SWE_Winter	-0.61	-0.22	0.27	0.19	-0.69

985