

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

INYO MOUNTAINS SALAMANDER

Batrachoseps campi

Family: PLETHODONTIDAE
A019

Order: CAUDATA

Class: AMPHIBIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The Inyo Mountains salamander is an uncommon species known only from several canyons of the west and east slopes of the Inyo Mountains east of Lone Pine in Inyo Co. Appears to exist only in moist microhabitats surrounded by desert. Elevation 550-600 m (1800-1970 ft) in Hunter Canyon to 2590-2620 m (8500-8600 ft) (Yanev and Wake 1981, Jennings and Hayes 1994).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: No information, but probably takes a variety of small arthropods, annelids, and molluscs.

Cover: On the surface, these salamanders take cover under rocks on moist soil (sandy loam) in steep-walled shaded canyons with permanent springs or seepages. Crevices and subterranean watercourses may provide underground cover.

Reproduction: No data.

Water: Always associated with permanent springs or seepages.

Pattern: Inhabits desert riparian habitats in steep walled, boulder-strewn canyons with permanent springs or seepages.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Little information, but like other *Batrachoseps*, most surface activity is nocturnal.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: No data.

Home Range: Unknown, but probably small (less than one acre). Other *Batrachoseps* species have home ranges of 60 ft, or less, in the longest dimension (Hendrickson, 1954, Cunningham, 1960).

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Little information. Some females collected in September and October 1973 contained enlarged yellow ovarian eggs (Marlow et al. 1979). Related forms lay eggs in clusters of 4 to 21 (Stebbins 1951).

Niche: No data.

Comments: Opening or clearing of desert springs and the action of introduced burros may cause destruction of the restricted habitat of this uncommon species.

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