

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

BLACK SALAMANDER
Family: PLETHODONTIDAE
A020

Order: CAUDATA

Aneides flavipunctatus
Class: AMPHIBIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The black salamander occurs from Del Norte and Siskiyou counties south along the coast to Sonoma and Napa counties, with a disjunct population (*A. f. niger*) in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Populations of this species use different microhabitats in various parts of their range. In Shasta Co., salamanders frequent the margins of permanent streams in redwood, Douglas fir, and montane hardwood forests throughout the year. In other areas, they use perennial grass, wet meadow, montane riparian, valley-foothill hardwood, hardwood conifer, and riparian habitats. Primarily restricted to elevations below 1070 m (3500 ft) (Bury 1970).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Diet includes spiders and beetles (Stebbins 1951).

Cover: Uses rock slides, rotten logs, and surface debris for cover.

Reproduction: This species lays a cluster of eggs in a soil cavity, or among rocks.

Water: It is primarily found in moist habitats and tends to be more tolerant of wet soils than other climbing salamanders (Stebbins 1985).

Pattern: Prefers cool, moist and shaded conditions along ravines and water courses.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Probably nocturnal. In drier, northern portions of its range, aestivation occurs between April and October. It is active yearlong in moist habitats.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: No data.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Eggs are laid from late spring to summer, and clutch sizes average 15 (range 7-25). Females guard the nest.

Niche: Moderate to high rainfall and moderate temperatures appear to be the main factors limiting the distribution of this salamander (Lynch 1974). Predators probably include garter snakes.

REFERENCES

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- Stebbins, R. C. 1954. *Amphibians and reptiles of western North America*. McGraw-Hill, New York. 536pp.
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Life history accounts for species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) System were originally published in: Zeiner, D.C., W.F.Laudenslayer, Jr., K.E. Mayer, and M. White, eds. 1988-1990. *California's Wildlife*. Vol. I-III. California Depart. of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California. Updates are noted in accounts that have been added or edited since original publication.