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

BLACK TOAD *Anaxyrus exsul*
Family: BUFONIDAE Order: ANURA Class: AMPHIBIA
A031

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Updated by: CWHR Program Staff, October 2014

DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The black toad is a common, but highly restricted specie s, occurring only in Deep SpringsValley between the White and Inyo Mountains in Inyo Co. Elevation 151 5 m (5000 ft) to 1580 m (5200 ft). The species occurs in or near springs, water courses, marshes and wet meadows.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Terrestrial individuals probably take a variety of arthropods, annelids, and molluscs. Busack and Bury (1975) suggested a preference for beetles, fly larvae, and ants. Aquatic larvae feed primarily on algae and plant material.

Cover: When active, terrestrial individuals seek cover under and between clumps of vegetation and under surface objects near watercourses and in marshy situations. Such individuals often attempt to escape capture by hopping into the water and seeking the shelter of undercut banks of watercourses. In winter individuals appear to seek shelter in rodent burrows or in depressions under surface objects.

Reproduction: Breeding and egg laying occur primarily in the shallow water where the current is not strong.

Water: Always associated with wet places and appear to require the water provided by permanent springs.

Pattern: Occur primarily in and along watercourses and marshes and in associated wet meadow habitat.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Active diurnally March to November but with some crepuscular and nocturnal activity during the warmest periods. Cooler periods (late fall to early spring) are spent in hibernation.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Some dispersal to and from hibernacula and breeding sites occurs annually. The extent of this movement is unknown but is potentially extensive.

Home Range: Schuierer (1962) reported movements of up to 12 m (39 ft).

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Breeding and egg laying occur during March and April. Clutches of 120 to 150 eggs are common. Metamorphosis usually occurs by June. Sexual maturity is probably reached by the end of the second year.

Niche: Tadpoles may be subject to predation by aquatic invertebrates. All life history stages are probably preyed upon by birds and mammals.

Comments: Formerly called Deep Springs toad, and considered a subspecies of B. boreas.

REFERENCES

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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.