

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

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SAN GABRIEL SLENDER SALAMANDER                      *Batrachoseps gabrieli*  
Family: PLETHODONTIDAE                      Order: CAUDATA                      Class: AMPHIBIA  
A053

Written by: CWHR Program Staff, August 2005

#### DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

Known from select localities in the San Gabriel Mountains and the Mt. Baldy area of Los Angeles County and the western end of the San Bernardino Mountains in San Bernardino Co., with an elevation range of 366 -1,550 m (1,200 - 5,085 ft) (Stebbins, 2003). Occurs on talus slopes surrounded by a variety of conifer and montane hardwood species, including bigcone spruce, pine, white fir, incense cedar, canyon live oak, black oak, and California laurel (Wake 1996, Stebbins, 2003).

#### SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

**Feeding:** Feeding probably occurs both above and below ground (Hendrickson 1954). Assumed to eat prey items similar to what Stebbins (1951) reported for other species of *Batrachoseps*, including earthworms, small slugs, a variety of terrestrial arthropods, and insects.

**Cover:** Known to seek cover in cavities below talus rocks and under logs. Wake (1996) reported that, although no individuals were observed active on the surface, some were found under superficial cover.

**Reproduction:** Most reproductive activities likely occur underground (Yanev 1978).

**Water:** Because of the need for moisture, near-surface activity is probably limited to a few winter and early spring months (Wake, 1996).

**Pattern:** Summer and fall drought probably cause individuals to retreat deep into the talus slope (Wake 1996).

#### SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

**Activity Patterns:** Near surface activity probably limited to a few winter and early spring months (Wake 1996). Salamanders of the genus *Batrachoseps* are normally active at night (Hendrickson 1954).

**Seasonal Movements/Migration:** Salamanders of the genus *Batrachoseps* are highly sedentary; hatchlings presumably disperse, but no data found (Yanev 1978).

**Home Range:** No data on this species. Hendrickson (1954) found that adults of *B. attenuatus* moved within a mean range of 1.5 m (5 ft) from their home cover over 2 years, and 59% of the individuals were found repeatedly under the same cover.

**Territory:** No data.

Reproduction: No data.

Niche: Co-exists black-bellied salamader (*B. nigriventris*) at some locations (Stebbins 2003), but considered ecologically distinct (Wake 1996).

#### REFERENCES

- Hendrickson, J. R. 1954. Ecology and systematics of salamanders of the genus *Batrachoseps*. Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. 54:1-46.
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- Stebbins, R. C. 2003. Western reptiles and amphibians. Third edition. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston and New York. 533 pp.
- Wake, D. B. 1996. A new species of *Batrachoseps* (Amphibia: Plethodontidae) from the San Gabriel Mountains, Southern California. Contributions in Science, No. 463. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Co.
- Yanev, K. P. 1978. Evolutionary studies of the plethodontid salamander Genus *Batrachoseps*. Ph. D. Diss. Univ. Calif., Berkeley. 251pp.

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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 Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California. Updates are noted in accounts that have been added or edited since original publication.