

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

WANDERING SALAMANDER

Aneides vagrans

Family: PLETHODONTIDAE
A068

Order: CAUDATA

Class: AMPHIBIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The wandering salamander is found in the humid coastal forests of northern California, from Del Norte county south to Sonoma county. California populations of this species were once considered to be part of *A. ferreus*, the clouded salamander (Jackman 1998). Habitats used include Douglas fir, redwood, montane hardwood-conifer, red fir, and valley-foothill riparian. This species is not commonly observed in dry periods, and probably estivates during these times.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Consumes a variety of small arthropods, including ants, beetles, spiders and mites (Storm and Allen 1947).

Cover: Usually found under logs and beneath the bark of snags or logs. They also frequent talus piles and moist rock crevices (Stebbins 1951, Behler and King 1979).

Reproduction: Eggs are commonly deposited under bark or within rotting logs and stumps.

Water: Primarily found in moist habitats.

Pattern: Most abundant in dense old-growth forests, but also occur at the borders of clearings (Stebbins 1985).

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Probably nocturnal. Dry seasons are spent aestivating deep within logs and moist rock crevices.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Not migratory.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Eggs are deposited in late spring and early summer, hatching in late summer or fall. Clutch size is 8 to 17. Females guard nests.

Niche: May be preyed upon by garter snakes and ringneck snakes.

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