

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

ROSY BOA (NORTHERN THREE-LINED BOA) *Lichanura orcutti*
Family: BOIDAE Order: SQUAMATA Class: REPTILIA
R105

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The northern three-lined boa is widely but sparsely distributed in desert and chaparral habitats throughout southern California, south of Los Angeles, from the coast to the Mojave and Colorado deserts. It is absent in extreme eastern California and near the Salton Sea. In coastal areas, it inhabits rocky chaparral-covered hillsides and canyons, while in the desert it is found on scrub flats with good cover and in the mountains. It is a secretive snake and little is known about seasonality, but it is most frequently encountered in late spring and early summer (Klauber 1931, 1933, Stebbins 1954). This species was formerly known as *Lichanura trivirgata* in California, and is now considered *L. orcutti* based on taxonomic revisions (Wood et al.).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: The diet consists of small rodents and birds (Stebbins 1954). This species will eat lizards in captivity and may do so in the wild.

Cover: Rosy boas prefer areas with moderate to dense vegetation and rocky cover. They have been found under rocks, in boulder piles and along rock outcrops and vertical canyon walls.

Reproduction: No data. Young are live-born and a quiet protected area must be required.

Water: Readily enters water in captivity but probably does not require free water.

Pattern: This snake occupies habitats with a mixture of a brushy cover and rocky soil such as coastal canyons and hillsides, desert canyons, washes, and mountains.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Early in the season individuals may be crepuscular but most are nocturnal. On rare occasions they may be abroad during the day (Klauber 1933, Stebbins 1954). Greatest activity occurs from late spring to early or mid-summer.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: The rosy boa probably does not migrate, but long foraging movements may occur.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Young are live-born with 6-10 in a brood. A brood was born in captivity on November 16 (Stebbins 1954).

Niche: This snake is heavy-bodied and probably a desirable prey item for owls, roadrunners, other avian predators, coyotes, kit foxes, and other mammalian predators. It probably competes with *Crotalus viridis* in coastal areas and several other species of snakes in the desert.

REFERENCES

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- Wood, D. A., Fisher, R. N., Reeder, T. W. 2008. Novel patterns of historical isolation, dispersal, and secondary contact across Baja California in the Rosy Boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 46:484–502

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