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

SANTA CRUZ BLACK SALAMANDER　　　　*Aneides flavipunctatus niger*
Family: PLETHODONTIDAE　　　　　　Order: CAUDATA　　　　Class: AMPHIBIA
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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The Santa Cruz black salamander occurs from western Santa Clara County in the Santa Cruz Mountains, northern Santa Cruze County, and southern San Mateo County (Thomson et al. 2016). Preferred habitat includes shallow standing water or seeps, mesic forests in the fog belt of the outer coast range, and from personal communications with S. Reilly, talus formations or rocky rubble (Meyers and Maslin 1948, Thomson et al. 2016). From personal communications, the salamander is found from near sea level to about 682 m. (2,240 ft.) (Nafis 2018).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: It is assumed a generalized predator of small invertebrates and arthropods; diet includes spiders and beetles (Stebbins 1951, Thomson et al. 2016).

Cover: Uses rock slides, rotten logs, and other surface debris near water 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. The species 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. It is active yearlong in moist habitats (Lynch 1974).

Seasonal Movements/Migration: No data.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Eggs are laid from July or early August (Petranka 1998). Clutch sizes average 15 (range 7-25). Females guard the nest. Juveniles emerge on the waters surface at the onset of fall rains in October or November (Lynch 1981).

Niche: Moderate to high rainfall and moderate temperatures appear to be the main factors limiting the distribution of this salamander (Lynch 1974). *A. f. niger* is a ground-dweller, while most other *Aneides* can be quite arboreal (Myers and Maslin 1948). Predators probably include garter snakes.

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