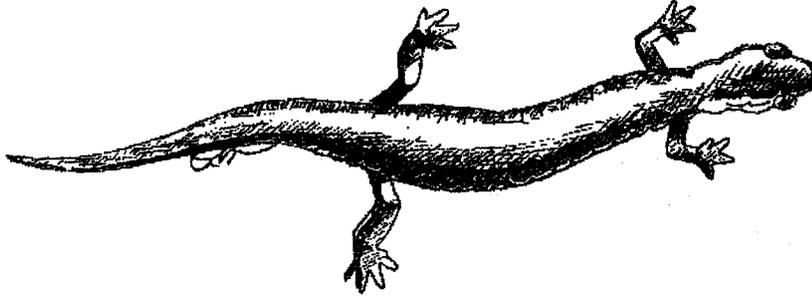


Sacramento Mountain Salamander

Aneides hardii
Family Plethodontidae



Global Rank: G3

State Rank: S3 (NM)

Distribution: Isolated to the Sacramento, White, and Capitan Mountains of south-central New Mexico. The range extends from around 8,500 ft. (2,600 m.) to 11,700 ft. (3,600 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adults reach about 3 in. (7.5 cm.) in snout-vent length. Tails are normally slightly shorter than the body length. The salamander is slim bodied, short-legged, agile, and an excellent climber. It has 14 to 15 costal grooves and 2 to 4 1/2 costal folds between the tips of the toes of adpressed limbs. Toe tips are rounded. Coloration is light to dark brown above, with varying amounts of greenish gray to bronze mottling. The belly is light brown, throat is cream-colored, and underside of tail is slate. Young have a whitish throat and a brown or bronze dorsal stripe.

Reproduction: Mature males are slightly larger than females. Both sexes reach maturity in two years, but the females require an additional year before ova reach sufficient size for



*Current range of the
Sacramento Mountain salamander*

oviposition. Oviposition occurs every three years thereafter. Average number of eggs is ten, probably the smallest number among salamanders. Eggs are deposited in large, moist, decomposing Douglas-fir logs or log cavities in July through September. The eggs are guarded by the females. Juveniles believed to be newly hatched have been found under bark from mid-June through September.

Food: Feeds on various arthropods and other invertebrates, including annelid worms, mollusks, collembolans, beetles, ants, and small wasps. About 40 percent of the diet is ants and 30 percent is beetles.

Habits: The salamander is generally associated with Douglas-fir and spruce forests where there is usually large woody debris or rocks.

Management Implications: The salamander is locally abundant where the essential microhabitat characteristics are available.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Degenhardt, W.G., C.W. Painter, and A.H. Price. 1996. Amphibians and reptiles of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM.