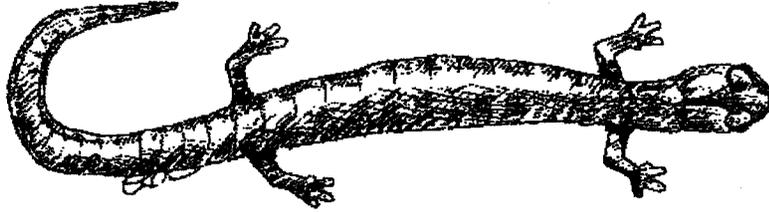


Tehachapi Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps stebbinsi
Family Plethodontidae



Global Rank: G2

State Rank: S2 (CA)

Distribution: Found in scattered localities in Tulare and Kern Counties, California, including the Caliente Creek drainage, Piute Mountains, at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, and through the Tehachapi Mountains to Fort Tejon. Ranges from about 2,000 ft. (610 m.) to 4,600 ft. (1,400 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adults reach about 2 1/2 in. (6 cm.) in snout-vent length. A broad-headed, long-limbed slender salamander with broad toes and feet. The toes seem to be more fully webbed than in other slender salamanders, with only one segment of each toe free of the web. There are 18-19 costal grooves and 6-7 costal folds between the toes of adpressed limbs. Coloration above is light to dark brown, reddish, or with light beige patches. The dorsal stripe, when present, is often diffused with uneven borders. There are few or no light specks along the central part of body.

Reproduction: Eggs laid in moist places under surface objects. Breeding season sus-



*Current range of the
Tehachapi slender salamander*

pected to be from November to February, with peak activity in November and December. Clutch size is unknown.

Food: Eats small insects and other invertebrates which it searches for or waits for under surface objects..

Habits: Prefers moist canyons and ravines in all successional stages of blue oak savannah, digger pine-oak, and deciduous types. Other habitats are mountain meadows and all successional stages of mixed conifers. Found under rocks often in or near talus slopes and beneath rotting logs, especially in areas where there is considerable leaf litter.

Management Implications: First described in 1968. Rare in California where it is found only in Tulare and Kern Counties.

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; Verner, J., and A.S. Boss. 1980. California wildlife and their habitats: western Sierra Nevada. USDA Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, GTR PSW-37, Berkeley, CA.