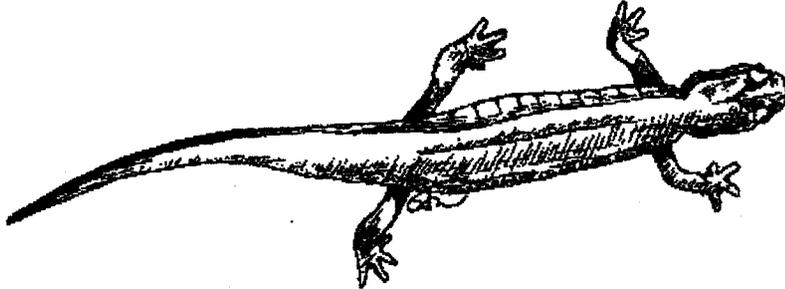


Van Dyke's Salamander

Plethodon vandykei
Family Plethodontidae



Global Rank: G3

State Rank: S2 (WA)

Distribution: Restricted to western Washington. Ranges from near sea level to around 5,000 ft. (1,550 m.) in elevation. Formerly was combined with the Coeur d'Alene salamander of Idaho and northwestern Montana.

Description: Adults reach to around 2 1/2 in. (6.2 cm.) in snout-vent length and up to 4 in. (10 cm.) in total length. There are hairline furrows extending from each nostril to the edge of the upper lip and thin, moist skin. Dorsal stripes are yellowish, greenish, tan, or reddish, with even or scalloped edges, bordered with black or dark brown. The throat is pale yellow contrasting with a dark belly color, which is black or dusky flecked with white. Large adults are occasionally nearly plain dull yellow, tan, or pinkish rose with dark color of sides and belly faint or absent. There are usually 14 costal grooves and up to 3 costal folds between the toes of adpressed limbs. Parotoid glands often evident in large adults. Young have a conspicuous yellow dorsal stripe, black sides, black belly, and a large yellow throat



*Current range of the
Van Dyke's salamander*

patch. Adult males have tubercles on the upper lip at the end of the nasolabial groove.

Reproduction: Breeding occurs in late summer and fall, and occasionally in the spring. Females can store sperm for long periods before fertilizing eggs, usually in the spring. Eggs are laid in moist concealed places in April through May, and young emerge in September.

Food: Feeds primarily on insects and other invertebrates, generally restricting foraging activities to moist spray areas, seeps, or streamside rocks and vegetation.

Habits: Found under rocks, logs, and bark near lakes, rivers, and streams, often in seepages where the soil is thoroughly wet. Occurs in both wooded and open areas from the lowlands well up into the mountains.

Management Implications: No known management concerns, except for restricted range and importance of seepages and spray areas.

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.