



Photo by Joshua Ream



Photo from californiaherps.com

DISTRIBUTION

The Long-toed Salamander is widely distributed in northwestern North America. The extent of its distribution in northern British Columbia is not known, but it has been found in the Stikine and Taku watersheds in the Province and in Southeast Alaska, where it has been reported near the mouth of the Stikine River at Figure Eight Lake (Twin Lakes), Mallard Slough, Cheliped Bay, Andrew Slough, Farm Island, and farther out from the river delta on Sokolof Island. The species has also been collected on the Alaska side of the Coast Range in the Taku River valley.

When threatened the tail is raised, head becomes tucked, and a sticky white excretion exudes from the tail as it is waved about. Up to 14 individuals have been found hibernating communally in gravel substrate below frost line.

(Information cited: www.alaskaherps.info / S. O. MacDonald)



Photo by Joshua Ream

ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Alaska Herpetological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the field of Herpetology in the State of Alaska. Our mission is to promote sound research and management of amphibians and reptiles in the North and to provide opportunities in outreach, education, and citizen science for individuals who are interested in these species.

WEB:

WWW.AKHERPSOCIETY.ORG

FACEBOOK:

ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LONG-TOED SALAMANDER

Ambystoma macrodactylum



Photo by Joshua Ream

INFORMATION

This information on the Long-toed Salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*) has been provided by the Alaska Herpetological Society.

You can help locate this species on our website, via a voucher or via the epicollect app. See www.akherpsociety.org for more information.

Long-toed Salamander Information

ADULT

Adults are 5.0-8.1cm (2.2-3.3 in) from snout to vent. They are dark to black above and have a yellow dorsal stripe running from their head back almost to the tip of the tail. Usually have a white or silver flecking on their sides as well. Often with distinctive grooves along their sides.

LARVAE

Larvae may be hard to distinguish from the Northwestern Salamander. The Long-toed Salamander does not have a line of spots like the Rough-skinned Newt.

EGGS

Eggs are laid singly and in masses (highly variable). May be attached to vegetation, underside of logs or laid unattached on bare sediments. Masses typically contain 10-20 eggs but smaller or larger clusters are common.

FACTS

Long-toed Salamanders are found in a variety of habitats but usually not very far from a water source. Adults spend most of their lives underground except when migrating to and from breeding sites.

While active on the surface in the spring they seek refuge under decaying logs, bark, rocks and other structures to maintain moisture. Adults are terrestrial and almost exclusively nocturnal.

The adult Long-toed Salamander has a slender, smooth-skinned body with 12-13 faint costal grooves, no paratoid glands, and long legs and hind toes, especially the fourth. It is relatively common in throughout it's range. In Southeast Alaska, the restricted distribution, unknown status, and possible island endemism of this species are factors for concern. Mortality and

incidence of deformities have been linked to UV-B exposure and parasite (trematode) infection. In developed areas, the destruction of wetland habitats may be the greatest threat.



Photo from www.fieldherpforum.com

HANDLING AMPHIBIANS

It is actually illegal in the State of Alaska to handle or remove Native amphibians from their habitat without a scientific collection permit.

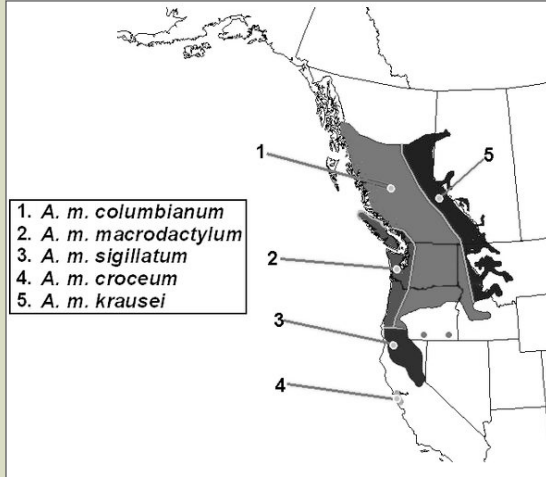
Handling them can increase the spread of disease and allows deadly chemicals like bug spray and sunscreen to easily penetrate their permeable skin. Removing them can hurt populations and change their genetic structure. Never move amphibians from place to place.

When possible, scrub boots, waders, nets and other equipment with a 5% bleach solution between sites or when you return home. This helps to stop the spread of diseases like chytrid fungus which has been identified in Alaska and can cause mass amphibian mortality.

Also, never release a pet amphibian into the wild!



Photo from www.esapubs.org



Map from M. D. Thompson (2003) Phylogeography of the long-toed salamander

DID YOU KNOW...

*That this species is one of the most widely distributed salamanders in North America? It is second only to its cousin the Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) which does not occur in Alaska. Another cousin, the Northwestern Salamander (*Ambystoma gracile*) does occur in our state. All of these species are considered "Ambystomatids" or "Mole Salamanders." While Long-toed Salamanders can be distinguished by their yellow stripe in Alaska, this is sometimes a broken line of splotches!*