

Chamberlain's Dwarf Salamander

Eurycea chamberlainii

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DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and basic description

Chamberlain's dwarf salamander is a newly described species that was recently recognized as distinct from the more common, dwarf salamander (*Eurycea quadridigitata*) (Harrison and Guttman 2003). Chamberlain's dwarf salamander is lighter in color than the more common form, having a yellow underside that lacks any markings. Chamberlain's dwarf salamander is a very small salamander averaging approximately 2.5 cm (0.9 in.) in total length (Harrison and Guttman 2003).

Status

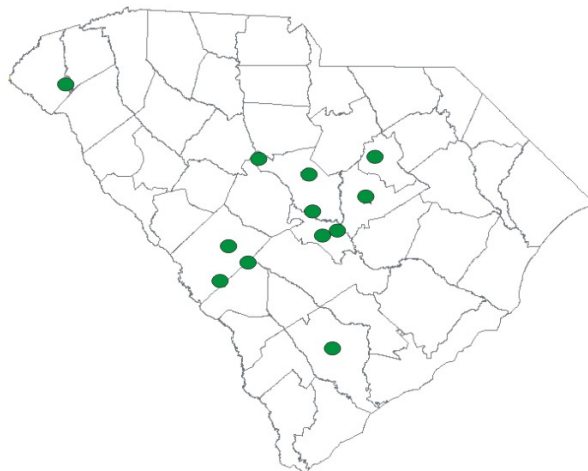
Chamberlain's dwarf salamander was previously considered a color variation of the dwarf salamander, a more common species. At this time, the new species has no official designation, but would qualify for Special Concern status because of data deficiencies. It is not ranked in South Carolina but is in Georgia (S1) and North Carolina (S3/S4). Globally, the species is ranked G4. [NatureServe 2013]

POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

Little data exists on the population status of the Chamberlain's dwarf salamander. It is known from Barnwell, Allendale, and Pickens counties in South Carolina and occurs on the Savannah River Site (Harrison and Guttman, 2003).

HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

Chamberlain's dwarf salamander is typically found in wet areas, particularly seepages near small



Chamberlain's Dwarf Salamander (*Eurycea chamberlainii*) occurrence records

streams, and other wetland types. This species is most typically found under leaf litter and small debris in these habitats (Harrison and Guttman 2003).

CHALLENGES

Terrestrial: Little is known about the specific life history of this species, but it could be threatened by habitat loss and alteration. In particular, forestry practices that alter the canopy structure of their habitat could affect these species.

Aquatic: Chamberlain's dwarf salamander deposits eggs in aquatic habitats such as springs, seeps, and small streams, and has aquatic larvae which inhabit these wetlands until metamorphosis. Therefore any alteration or drainage of these habitats could affect the species.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A recent State Wildlife Grant funded project addressed the distribution of Chamberlain's dwarf salamander in South Carolina. Results of this project are addressed in a project completion report provided to USFWS in 2011.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary objective concerning this species is to determine its current distribution and status in South Carolina.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

As results from current research and surveys or future efforts are identified and analyzed, projects will be initiated to address specific needs that arise from these results.

LITERATURE CITED

- Harrison, J. H. III and S. I. Guttman. 2003. A new species of *Eurycea* (Caudata: Plethodontidae) from North and South Carolina. *Southeastern Naturalist* 2(2):159-178.
- NatureServe. 2013. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, VA. (On-line) Accessed Feb. 21, 2013 at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.