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***Plethodon larselli* Burns  
Larch Mountain salamander**

*Plethodon vandykei larselli* Burns, 1954:83. Type-locality, "north slope of Larch Mountain, three miles from summit, on the Multnomah Falls Trail, Multnomah County, Oregon." Holotype, U. S. Natl. Mus. 134129, collected by Douglas M. Burns, 24 May 1953.

*Plethodon larselli*: Burns, 1962:177. Elevation to species rank.

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.
- DEFINITION. A *Plethodon* having a maximum recorded total length of 103 mm, and a maximum snout-vent length of 55 mm. Costal grooves are usually 14, infrequently 13. Trunk vertebrae usually number 16. The fifth toe on the hind foot is markedly reduced and has only one phalanx. Full phalangeal pattern for the hind foot is 1, 2, 3, 3, 1. Partial webbing is present between toes of the hind feet. The dorsum is red, orange, brown, or yellowish, with varying quantities of small melanophores; lateral surfaces are black mottled with iridophores; the venter is reddish orange to salmon pink with varying amounts of finely dispersed melanic pigment.
- DESCRIPTIONS. Adults and juveniles are described by Burns (1954, 1962:177). Information is lacking on the eggs and nesting habits.
- ILLUSTRATIONS. Burns (1962) shows a dorsolateral view of an adult and the skeletal structure of the hind foot.
- DISTRIBUTION. Apparently this species is confined to the lower Columbia River gorge between the towns of Hood River and Troutdale, Oregon. Of the seven recorded localities, six are on the Oregon side of the gorge. Archer Falls, Skamania County, Washington, is the only locality north of the Columbia River. The species occurs in close association with lava talus slopes of either Columbia River basalt or Cascade andesite. Usually it is found under stones. Most localities are in dense stands of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) with considerable moss and humus. At Archer Falls, however, there is little humus or vegetation. Collection sites range in elevation from 100 to 3900 feet above sea level.
- FOSSIL RECORD. None.
- PERTINENT LITERATURE. To date only three papers have been published concerning this species. The original description in 1954 was followed by a second paper (Burns, 1962) providing illustrations and more extensive data. Highton (1962) summarizes available data in his monograph of the genus *Plethodon*.
- REMARKS. *Plethodon larselli* and *Plethodon neomexicanus* are the only members of this genus having a single phalanx in the fifth toe.
- ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *larselli* was chosen in honor of Dr. Olof Larsell, formerly Professor of Anatomy, University of Oregon Medical School, and Professor of Neuroanatomy, University of Minnesota Medical School.

The common name, Larch Mountain salamander, is derived from the collection site of the holotype.

## COMMENT

Nothing is published to date concerning specimens smaller than 41 mm total length. One such specimen has been examined by this writer. It measures 29 mm total length and was collected 30 December 1961 at Starvation Falls, Hood River County, Oregon, by Edward McMann. It differs from all other recorded specimens as follows: The ventral surface of the tail is pale gray with a scattering of small, pale yellow-orange flecks; the venter is yellowish orange, much paler than that observed in adults and other larger juveniles. Lateral melanin encroaches onto the ventral surface to an extent rarely seen in adults.

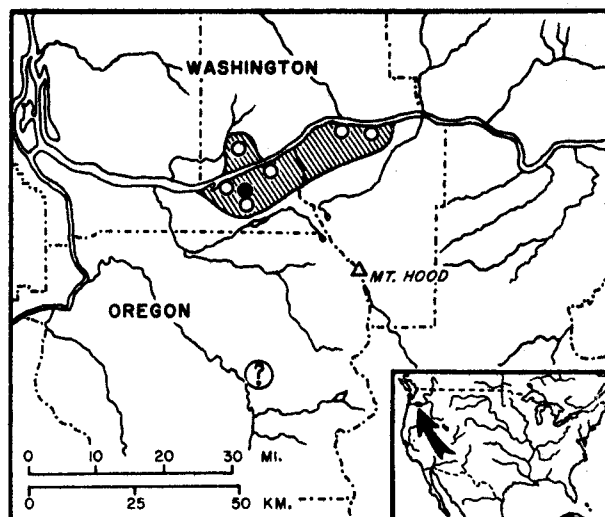
A verbal report of *Plethodon larselli* from the vicinity of Three Links School on the Clackamas River, Clackamas County, Oregon, has not been confirmed in spite of several attempts to obtain specimens from this area. No specimens are available. The habitat at this site seems identical with that at most of the known localities. Even in the best collecting areas this species is usually difficult to obtain.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Burns, Douglas M. 1954. A new subspecies of the salamander *Plethodon vandykei*. *Herpetologica*, 10: 83-87.
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- Highton, Richard. 1962. Revision of North American salamanders of the genus *Plethodon*. *Bull. Florida State Mus.*, 6:235-367.

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MAP. The solid circle marks the type-locality; hollow circles indicate other selected ones. The encircled question mark is an unverified locality. All distributional boundaries are in doubt.