



Rana boylei in Oregon

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Source: *Copeia*, Vol. 1938, No. 3 (Sep. 24, 1938), p. 148

Published by: [American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists \(ASIH\)](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1436599>

Accessed: 29/12/2014 13:44

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Herpetological Notes

RANA BOYLI IN OREGON.—The California yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei boylei*) has hitherto been recorded in Oregon only in the southwestern part of the state. Drain, Douglas County, in the Umpqua River drainage, is the northernmost record (Slevin, 1930, Occ. Pap. Calif. Acad. Sci., 16: 138).

Material recently collected demonstrates that the species ranges north along the west flank of the Cascade Range into the Willamette River drainage in the northwestern part of the state. On June 18, 1935, specimens were collected at Rolling Riffle Creek on the middle fork of the Willamette River, Lane County, and I have seen these frogs at the mouth of the McKenzie River near Eugene. On October 13, 1937, several were collected along a deep, slow-moving creek near Mehama, Marion County, in the Santiam River drainage, in woods of broadleaf maple, alder, and Douglas fir. Red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora aurora*) were much more abundant at this locality and many were found in the wet herbaceous vegetation, some at a distance from the edge of the creek. However, all yellow-legged frogs found were within two small areas, each only a few yards square, where the creek was swifter than usual and there were rocks along shore and others protruding above the surface in the stream; all *boylei* seen were on these rocks.

A probable limiting factor in the northward distribution of this species is the general lack in northwestern Oregon of streams with open, gravelly margins. Edges of the prevailing deep, slow-moving streams, with undercut banks, and dense riparian growth which often overhangs the water, do not furnish the rocky habitat which ordinarily seems to have an ecologic requirement of the yellow-legged frog.

I have two locality records in southwestern Oregon, east of the Cascade divide. One of these is of a specimen (Mus. Vert. Zool.) taken at the Klamath River 13 miles from the California state line. The other is at Lake of the Woods, at about 5000 feet altitude and near the crest of the Cascades but draining eastward into Klamath Lake. At this locality the frogs were abundant in meadows along the edge of a creek, where there were no rocky banks. The habitat there was even less typical in that the life zone was Canadian, as indicated by dominance of lodgepole pine and snow brush (*Ceanothus velutinus*). Farther eastward, at lower altitudes in the Klamath Lakes basin, yellow-legged frogs seemingly do not occur, but there is no physiographic barrier and it is possible that the increasing aridity is the excluding factor there.

In the Rogue River basin of southwestern Oregon, where the species is extremely common under suitable habitat conditions, a colony of only a few individuals is known to have persisted several years, six miles south of Medford in a deep gully near the head of a small tributary creek, which, in summer, goes dry for its entire course. At this place the creek bottom is silty, without rocks, and there is no riparian vegetation; but a small pool of water, or at least wet mud, remains in the bottom of the gully all summer, and the high banks provide shade. Possibly lack here of certain favorable features usually present in *Rana boylei* habitat is more than compensated for by the absence of several predatory species, turtles, garter snakes, bitterns, and herons, which are common along the larger and more permanent streams of the region.—HENRY S. FITCH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.*

AN OLDER NAME FOR *TRITURUS SIMILANS* TWITTY.—The species of newt to which the specific name *similans* was recently applied by Twitty (1935, COPEIA: 76) ranges far north of the type locality, near Ukiah, Mendocino County, California. Apparently the closely related species *Triturus torosus* and *Triturus rivularis* are exclusively Californian. All newts from extreme northern California and from Oregon differ from both these species and agree with *similans* in their diagnostic characters—palatine teeth arranged in V-shaped pattern; orange rather than red ventral color; broad heads in breeding males; yellowish eyes; lips of cloaca forming a conical elevation in breeding females; larvae dotted, not striped, and with broad fins; eggs deposited singly (by captive individuals); breeding season late. Mr. Thomas L. Rodgers, who has identified all the *Triturus* material in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, using Twitty's diagnostic characters, corroborates my identification of all Oregon specimens as *similans*.