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TRITURUS MARMORATUS (Marbled Newt). **LIMB ABNORMALITIES.** Herein we report a high occurrence of limb abnormalities in a population of *Triturus marmoratus*. Data were gathered during 2000–2003 and 2005, while we were investigating the orientation behavior of this species (Diego-Rasilla and Luengo 2002. J. Ethol. 20:137–141; Diego-Rasilla and Luengo 2004. Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol. 55:556–560).

A temporal pond 270 m^2 situated in Valdeajos (Burgos, northern Spain; 42º44' 32 N, 3º54'41"W; 1040 m elev.) was monitored for Marbled Newts during the spring. This eutrophic pond, constructed for cattle use and surrounded by an agricultural landscape, is characterized by high levels of nutrient runoff from agricultural lands and heavy livestock use.

Of the 33 adult newts collected in 2000, one adult male and one adult female had visible abnormalities (6.1 % abnormal). The female newt had seven digits (polydactilia), which were poorly separated and short, indicating missing phalanges (brachydactyly) in its right hind limb. The male had the normal number of metatarsal bones in its right hind limb, but the number of phalanges was reduced (brachydactyly) (see Diego-Rasilla 2000. Bol. Asoc. Herpetol. Esp. 11[2]:88–89).

Fifteen newts were examined in 2001, and one adult male and one adult female appeared abnormal (13.3% abnormal). On the left hind limb of the male, digit IV had a duplicated phalanx (polyphalangy). In the adult female the left hind limb adopted a palette shape, only three digits were present (ectrodactyly), and they were all short (brachydactyly).

Of 27 adults collected 23 March 2002, one adult female had visible abnormalities (3.7% abnormal). Digit II of its right fore limb had a duplicated last phalanx (polyphalangy), and it was albino (Diego-Rasilla et al., submitted).

Twenty-three adult newts were captured on 11 April 2003. In this survey we collected the albino female again which was the only individual having visible abnormalities (4.3% abnormal).

We searched the pond again on 1 May 2005 and collected 18 adult newts. Three were identified as having abnormalities (16.7% abnormal), one of them being the albino female described above. The other two specimens, male and female, had abnormalities in three of their limbs. The adult female had four digits (i.e., four metatarsal bones) in its left fore limb, but the number of phalanges was reduced (brachydactyly); the right fore limb was very short, showing an absence of the proximal portion of the limb, with the foot attached very close to the body and proximal bones that could not be identified (phocomelia). This is phocomelia and not ectromelia because a foot is present, although the foot is abnormal with only three metatarsal bones (ectrodactyly) associated with a reduced number of phalanges (brachydactyly). The female also showed reduced right hind limb elements (brachydactyly), and digit III was rotated about 90º to the left. The male newt showed reduced right and left fore limb elements (brachydactyly); also digit III in its right fore limb was rotated about 90º to the left and showed reduced right hind limb elements (brachydactyly).

These rates of visual abnormalities exceeded the baseline abnormality percentage of 0–2% predicted in amphibian populations (Ouellet 2000. *In* Sparling et al. [eds.], Ecotoxicology of Amphibians and Reptiles, pp. 617–646. Soc. Environ. Toxicol. Chem.). It has been suggested that the composition of landscapes surrounding wetlands affects rates of limb malformation. Particularly, proximity to human associated land uses including agriculture, as is the case in our Marbled Newt population, is associated with an increased risk (Ouellet et al. 1997. J. Wildl. Dis. 33:95–104).

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TRITURUS MARMORATUS (Marbled Newt). **ALBINISM.** On 23 March 2002 we collected an albino adult female *Triturus marmoratus* (129 mm TL; 57 mm tail length; 12.2 g) from a temporary pond situated in Valdeajos (Burgos, northern Spain; 42º44'32"N, 3º54'41"W) at an elevation of 1040 m. The albino adult female also exhibited polyphalangy in its right forelimb. After being examined, the belly and dorsal patterns were photographed for identification and the individual was returned to its breeding pond.

The albino female was golden in appearance, whereas all other *T. marmoratus* captured at the pond showed the characteristic color pattern of this species (Barbadillo et al. 1999. Anfibios y Reptiles de la Península Ibérica, Baleares y Canarias. 419 pp.). This albino female had black eyes and a speckled body pattern, however due to the deficiency of melanophores, there were no greenish or black colors. The dorsal surface had a golden base color with dark spots showing poorly defined edges. Dorsally, the individual showed a golden, poorly defined, dorsal stripe. Golden shades were clearest on the limbs and on the ventral surface of the abdomen, thorax, and head because dark spots scarcely appeared on these surfaces. The ventral surface of the abdomen showed a thinner epidermis, and it was possible to see the intestines through the skin.

In a subsequent survey at the same pond on 11 April 2003, we collected the albino female for a second time (132 mm TL; 60 mm tail; 10.9 g). We searched the same pond again on 1 May 2005 and collected the albino female again (137 mm TL; 64 mm tail; 8.1 g). It seems that selective pressures against albinism in wild *T. marmoratus* may not be strong since this individual survived as an adult animal. Also, it successfully returned in successive years to the same pond, showing strong site fidelity for its breeding pond.

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ANURA

ASCAPHUS TRUEI (Tailed Frog). **NEST SITE.** Few nest sites of *A. truei* have been reported and the timing of oviposition is relatively unknown. Here I report the first *A. truei* nest site from Mendocino County, California (USA) and also the first site detected within a seep. Karraker and Beyersdorf (1997. Northwest. Nat. 78:110–111) reported the only previously documented site in California on 16 August 1994.