

published on predation of eggs in *R. a. draytonii*.

On 12 March 1997, at Lower Staub Pond (Swanton-Pacific Ranch, Scott Creek drainage, Santa Cruz County, California, USA), I found a 1 to 2-day-old red-legged frog egg mass. It was located at the surface of the water and was attached to the outer stems of a clump of *Juncus*. The water depth was about 25 cm.

I watched several newts (*Taricha* sp.) feeding on the eggs from 1620–1715 h. There were always 1–3 newts at the egg mass, and I estimated 6–8 individuals ate up to four eggs each during my observations.

During ingestion, each newt faced the egg mass and snapped up a single jelly-encased ovum with a short lunge. While the egg was grasped in the mouth, each newt shook its head violently back and forth 4–5 times in 2–4 bouts separated by about 2–3 s. The egg was dislodged from the mass by this shaking, and perhaps the jelly envelope was also removed. Swallowing motions followed the shaking. The forelegs were not used during ingestion.

After observing the feeding newts, I captured a female that had ingested two eggs, which were regurgitated in my hand. The eggs appeared to be without jelly envelopes. I dissected the newt, but found her digestive tract empty. On the afternoon of 11 March 1997, 5 Gee minnow traps (ca. 43 cm long, 2 cm diameter entrance, 6 mm mesh) were set about 2 m from shore along the perimeter of Lower Staub Pond. When the traps were checked mid-morning the next day, they yielded 46, 34, 30, 22, and 3 newts. These numbers corroborated my observations that the population of *Taricha* in the pond was large.

Egg and tadpole predation by native newts may be an important factor in *R. a. draytonii* population dynamics that should be considered along with other documented forms of predation.

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**RANA AURORA DRAYTONII** (California Red-legged Frog). **EGG PREDATION.** The designation of the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Fed. Reg. 23 May 1996, 61[101]:25813–25833) has heightened concern about mortality from predation. Of special concern has been the potential impacts of the introduced bullfrog (*R. catesbeiana*) and exotic fishes on tadpoles and adults (reviewed in Fed. Reg. 2 Feb 1994, 59[22]:4888–4895). Virtually no information, however, has been