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PSEUDOTRITON RUBER RUBER (Northern Red Salamander). POLYMELIA. Polymelia, the growth of an extra limb (Meteyer 2000. Field Guide to Malformations of Frogs and Toads with Radiographic Interpretations. Biol. Sci. Rept., USGS/BRD/BSR-2000-0005, Madison, Wisconsin), has been documented extensively in anurans. Observations of polymelia in salamanders have rarely been reported and primarily restricted to the genus Ambystoma (North American Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations website; http://frogweb.nbi.gov/narcam/). Few malformations have been described in stream salamanders and generally reported a lack of proper limb growth (Desmognathus fuscus: anopthalmia, ectromelia, brachydyactyly; and Eurycea cirrigera: hemimelia, ectrodactyly, and brachydactyly; NARCAM website). We describe polymelia in a larval Pseudotriton ruber collected from a stream at Cowan’s Ford Wildlife Refuge in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (3914850N, 0503155E Zone 17). The P. ruber larva (SVL 38 mm, TL 60 mm) was captured using a funnel trap in a first-order stream on 20 Nov 2006. The malformation occurred on the left foreleg, which appeared to be non-functional. At the elbow, two sets of radius and ulna emerge, one of which also appeared to have a rotational malformation (Appendage 1; Fig. 1). Appendage 1 appeared to have further malformations resulting in only 2 phalanges, but appendage 2 had four fully formed metatarsal bones and phalanges (Fig. 1). This larva is the only salamander of 540 captured individuals we found with any noticeable malformation. This represents the first report of multiple limbs in a stream salamander and the only known description of a malformation in P. ruber.

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On 15 March 2006 some T. marmoratus were captured in our traps while monitoring the European Pond Turtle (Emys orbicularis) in Gandarias de Budifio wetland, NW Spain. During manipulation to release these newts, a large female regurgitated an almost intact T. boscai. As Salvador and Garcia-Paris (2001, op. cit.) stated, the diet of T. marmoratus in northern Spain includes eggs and larvae of other amphibians including Bufo calamita, Rana perezi, and Pelobates cultripes. Only an exceptional case of adult newt consumption is reported involving an adult Alpine Newt (Triturus alpestris). Adult T. marmoratus in NW Spain reach more than 150 mm TL, while T. boscai remains smaller, reaching 90 mm TL. Thus, T. boscai could be potential prey for T. marmoratus.

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