

this region there is less variation in colour than in the one where his studies were made.

*Plethodon cinereus* may be found in almost any wood in which the underbrush has not been entirely cleared away. They seek shelter under logs, fallen branches, flakes of bark separating from old stumps, or even masses of decaying leaves; the cracks of rotting logs and stumps are also favorite places. In the latter situation the variety *erythronotus* receives some protection from the red in its coloration, the shade of red is often that of the decaying wood and the dark edging is a fair reproduction of the dark and narrow cracks that run through the log. Occasional specimens may be found in the latter part of April; during the next three weeks they become abundant and by the middle of May can be found as plentifully as at any time in the year. Just where they pass the winter has not been determined though search has been made both early in the spring and late in the autumn; digging quite through stumps and logs embedded in the soil will not expose them, though it will probably result in finding the wood-frog, *Rana sylvatica*. A few trifling things have suggested that the animals follow down the cracks in the roots of old stumps to a considerable depth, but this has not been verified. Farther south Montgomery ('01) finds them in the same situations both winter and summer.

*Plethodon* is strictly nocturnal, so far at least as regards life above ground; however, a specimen that is suddenly uncovered is by no means dazzled by daylight; it may remain motionless for a minute or two or may at once crawl beneath the nearest shelter. Nor does it stop when under cover but keeping out of sight crawls rapidly to a considerable distance, so that if not captured as soon as exposed it runs a very good chance of escaping entirely. This sensitiveness to light has rendered disappointing the results from keeping specimens in a terrarium, an amount of light sufficient to reveal them at all either arrests all movement or sends them under shelter.

An examination of the stomach contents shows the food to consist of a variety of small insects; in one case the remains of a small spider were found.

In handling living specimens it will frequently happen that the end of the tail will apply itself closely to a finger in a semi-circular loop, and hold thus for a few seconds. This power may perhaps be regarded as the first step in the development of a prehensile tail such as is described for *Autodax* (Ritter & Miller, '99).