

Endangered Species and Spaces

[Home](#)
[Up](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Classification Systems](#)
[Mammals](#)
[Birds](#)
[Freshwater Fishes](#)
[Invertebrates](#)
[Vascular Plants](#)
[Non-Vascular Plants](#)
[Plant Communities](#)
[Exotic Species](#)
[Protected Areas](#)
[Summary-Conclusions](#)
[Appendix](#)
[Amphibians and Reptiles](#)
[Back](#)
[Next](#)

5.5 Rubber Boa: *Charina bottae* (Blainville)

Order: *Squamata*

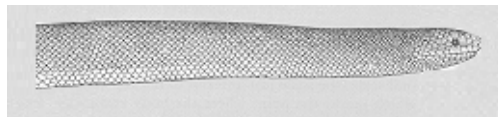
Family: *Boidae*

Status

Global Rank: G5

Provincial Rank: S3S4

Provincial Listing: [Blue list](#)



Distinguishing Features

Canada's only representative of the Boa family is a small (up to 73 cm) greyish or yellow-brown snake with a yellow underside. They are generally unmarked or may have a few dark flecks along the sides. The smooth dorsal scales and wrinkled skin give it a rubbery appearance. It has a rather short, blunt tail and narrow ventral (belly) scales (Cook, 1984).

Distribution

Columbia Basin: The distribution and abundance of this species is not well documented. It will likely be found in suitable habitat in the southern portion of the Columbia Basin.

British Columbia: Confined to the montane forests and woodlands from Quesnel south, most records are from the Thompson River basin south. Absent from the coast, except for one record from Vancouver.

Global: From southern British Columbia south to southern California, central Nevada and southern Utah; from the Pacific coast, east to north-central Wyoming and western Montana. The distribution is spotty throughout the range (Cannings et al. 1999).

Habitat

Rubber Boas are found in a variety of habitats, from mountainous humid regions to the lower, dryer valleys. They can be found in rotting logs or stumps, or under rocks, forest litter, bark or in crevices in cliffs (Cannings et al. 1999).

Threats

Habitat degradation caused by forestry and urban development is thought to be the cause of declines in southern California. This species is found in a wide variety of habitats but does require coarse woody debris, therefore may be affected by logging practices that do not leave any debris. Due to the Rubber Boa's ability to live in a wide variety of habitats the listed threats may not be as serious as they may be for species that have more restricted habitat requirements. Declines anticipated without a better strategy in place for the long-term supply of coarse woody debris (Cannings et al. 1999).

Biology

They are nocturnal, thus not commonly observed. They are carnivorous constrictors, eating mainly small rodents and shrews, as well as with birds, salamanders and snakes. Rubber Boas hibernate from about November to March, appearing to be one of our more cold tolerant snakes (Gregory and Campbell 1984). Body temperatures have been recorded at less than 7°C, however, pregnant females may gather together in order to maintain a warm stable body temperature. Breeding occurs during April and May with 2-8 young born live in the late summer or fall (Cannings et al.1999).

Amphibians and Reptiles

Back

Next



[[Home](#)] [[Up](#)] [[Northern Leopard Frog](#)] [[Tailed Frog](#)] [[Coeurd'Alene Salamander](#)] [[Painted Turtle](#)] [Rubber Boa]
[[Western Rattlesnake](#)] [[Amphibians & Reptiles References](#)]