12-2008

# The Genetics of Colonization in Two Amphibian Species After the 1980 Eruption of Mount St. Helens

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# THE GENETICS OF COLONIZATION IN TWO AMPHIBIAN SPECIES AFTER THE 1980 ERUPTION OF MOUNT ST. HELENS

by

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

Biology

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UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, UT

2008

# ABSTRACT

The Genetic Response of Two Amphibian Species After the

1980 Eruption of Mount St. Helens

by

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The genetics of colonization is understudied in salamanders but has large conservation implications as new habitats are formed or restored to their previous condition. The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens provided a natural experiment to study the genetic effects of a large infrequent environmental disturbance on two species of salamander, *Taricha granulosa* (Rough-skinned newt) and *Ambystoma gracile* (Northwestern salamander). Both these species breed in ponds, and are thought to exhibit high breeding site fidelity and low vagility. I designated three treatments based on the effects of the eruption: new ponds (created by the eruption, immigrants only), recovery lakes (in blast zone, survivors plus immigrants), and reference lakes (unaffected by eruption, assumed to represent pre-eruption genetic diversity measures). Salamanders took at least nine years to colonize the new ponds. I studied the population genetics of colonization and recovery using microsatellites and AFLPs (amplified fragment length polymorphisms) to measure genetic diversity, gene flow, and population substructure at

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Based on population genetics theory and the life history characteristics of these pond-breeding amphibians, I predicted that genetic diversity would be lower in newly colonized ponds compared to recovery or reference sites. I also expected significant levels of population substructuring. Finally, I predicted that because of their lower vagility and large number of neotenes, that *A. gracile* would have less gene flow and a greater degree of population substructuring than *T. granulosa*. My predictions were not supported by my data. There was no loss of genetic diversity in new or recovery populations in either species. There was no strong evidence for population structure by either AMOVA, isolation by distance or principal components analysis. Gene flow ($F_{ST}$) was high in both species. *Taricha granulosa* and *A. gracile* were found to be resistant to a large infrequent environmental disturbance. Loss of genetic variability in new populations cannot automatically be assumed. Predicting dispersal and colonization ability based on the broad category of pond-breeding amphibian is not always reliable.

(137 pages)

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Edmund D. Brodie, Jr., an advisor and mentor without equal. He and his spouse, Judy, always went above and beyond the call of duty. They attended the change of command ceremony in Fort Worth, TX for my Navy reserve unit, Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 109, and visited me in the hospital after my appendectomy. I was discharged from the hospital the same day of the lab's big fall party. Butch picked me up at the hospital and took me to their house where I got to sit in "his" chair during the festivities. Judy Brodie sent me care packages containing the best pralines in the world during my mobilization and deployment to Kuwait in 2004.

Dr. Michael E. Pfrender served as a co-advisor on all genetic matters. Without his advise, technical expertise, and use of his lab, the genetics work would have been impossible to complete. He also suggested Mount St. Helens as a study site. My interest in population genetics was spurred by discussions in Dr. Paul Wolf's population genetics class. Lab mates Chris Feldman and Eric O'Neill taught me how to extract DNA and perform PCRs, and answered a myriad of questions about these techniques. The AFLP work would not have been possible without the assistance of Dr. Mark P. Miller and his technician, Mr. Tom Orwin. Dr. Miller provided advice and lab supplies. Tom taught me the lab techniques for AFLPs and assisted in performing many of the DNA extractions and PCR reactions. Committee members Drs. Paul Wolf, Todd Crowl and Karen Beard provided helpful comments on this manuscript and asked all the questions I had not considered.

At Mount St. Helens, Charlie M. Crisafulli provided helpful information on where to find animals and a map of the Hummocks and Maratta ponds. He provided traps for my

first field season and provided access to a prime camping spot for the Hummocks and Maratta ponds. Dr. Adam G. Jones provided aliquots of primers for *Taricha granulosa*. Rod Williams (*Ambystoma texanum*), Tim L. King and Colleen Callahan (*A. maculatum* and *A. jeffersonianum*), and Angie Stevenson and Kelly Zamudio (*A. maculatum*) provided aliquots of primer for testing in *Ambystoma gracile*. Stephen Spear provided advice on optimizing *A. tigrinum* primers and provided a tissue sample of *A. tigrinum*, Quinn Shurtliff provided advise on using Abgene's Reddy-Mix, and Dr. Peter Ducey provided a tissue sample of *A. maculatum* that was used as a control. Mr. Ken Jones of Genetic Identification Services tested *A. gracile* DNA in PCR with *A. macrodactylum* primers for free. Their assistance saved me considerable amounts of time and money.

The USU herpetology group, including Kevin Young, Megan Lahti, Chris Feldman, Eric O'Neill, Dan Mulcahy, Becky Williams, Amber Brouillette, Leigh Latta, Ryan O'Donnell, Charles Hanifin, Shana Geffney, Ali Scoville, Michelle Cummer, and Mike Edgehouse, provided good friendship, feedback on work, and encouragement throughout the entire process. Best wishes to them on their future endeavors.

Funding sources included Sigma Xi and the American Museum of Natural History through a Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grant. Research was approved by the Utah State University IACUC, State of Washington scientific collection permits, and administrative closure access permits at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Finally, I am grateful to Mom, Dad, my brother, John, and sister, Koren. They knew that this was important to me. My cats, Shadow, Merlin, and Lena, listened, snuggled, and always knew when to purr.

Kristin Bakkegard

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# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

The genetics of colonization is an important topic in evolutionary biology. Colonization can occur with relatively few individuals, leading to founder effects or a bottleneck, resulting in the loss of alleles and a decrease in genetic diversity (Nei *et al.* 1975). Loss of genetic variability may adversely affect a population, leading to decreased fitness or a decrease in the probability of persistence, especially in small populations (Frankham 1995; Lesbarréres *et al.* 2005). Conversely, new habitats can be colonized by a large number of individuals or by multiple waves of immigrants from different source populations, increasing the amount of genetic variation in the newer populations (Kolbe *et al.* 2007). Colonization can, over many generations, act as an engine for evolution, leading to speciation events as evident in the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands with well known examples such as spiders (*Tetragnatha*) and birds (*Geospiza*; Grant *et al.* 2001; Gillespie 2004). On an ecological time scale, the success of a colonization event is dependent on the life-history of the colonizer, the selective pressures, reproductive output and survival. Therefore, each colonization event is unique.

Where does life-history and population genetic structure intersect? Wright's (1931) effective population size ($N_e$) is strongly influenced by age at first reproduction, life span, fecundity, and mating system. Population genetics theory predicts a positive correlation between effective population size and genetic diversity (Kimura 1983) and smaller populations are considered to be at higher risk of suffering the deleterious effects of low genetic diversity (Rowe & Beebee 2003; 2005). One way to contextualize the role of life history in the genetic structure of multiple populations is to compare similar

species, preferably from the same collection sites. With that approach, genetic differences among populations has been attributed to differences in dispersal capabilities, extinction-recolonization events, habitat fragmentation, and natural or anthropogenic disasters (Gallardo *et al.* 1995; Matocq *et al.* 2000; Newman & Squire 2001; Miller *et al.* 2002; Whiteley *et al.* 2004). Thus, a full understanding of the colonization process can provide guidance for research and conservation priorities, provide data for understanding demographic and dispersal patterns as related to life-history traits, and show if, or how much, genetic diversity is lost when a local population goes extinct and the habitat is later recolonized.

Since erupting on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens, located in the southwestern corner of Washington State, has become a classic study site for testing ecological theories of colonization (Dale *et al.* 2005). Researchers have studied how plants and animals have responded to and recovered from this major environmental disturbance, which has been allowed to proceed with minimal anthropogenic interference. Surprisingly, in the 25 plus years since the eruption, there are only two published studies on the genetic impacts of the eruption of Mount St. Helens for any taxa, both plants. Bishop (1996) compared survivor populations with newly colonized populations in *Lupinus lepidus* (prairie lupine) and found strong founder effects as expected from theory. Yang *et al.* (2008) found no evidence of founder effects or reduction in genetic diversity in new populations colonizing primary succession areas as compared to secondary succession or survivor plants in *Vaccinium membranaceum* (black huckleberry); evidence of high gene flow and long distance dispersal of seeds of this plant by animals. Worldwide, genetic studies of recolonization, after a recent volcanic eruption are few. The fossorial rodent *Ctenomys*

*maulinus brunnenus* on Lonquimay volcano in Chile showed a drastic reduction in genetic diversity of populations resulting in bottleneck effects when compared to levels of pre-eruption genetic diversity (Gallardo *et al.* 1995). The recolonization of *Hypochaeris tenuifolia,* a flowering herb on the same volcano, had no loss of genetic diversity within five founder populations (less than 10 yrs old) as compared to survivor or isolated populations from other parts of the range (Tremsetsberger *et al.* 2003). The tree *Antirhea borbonica* that colonized young lava flows on La Réunion island showed no evidence of founder effects (Litrico *et al.* 2005). Other studies on the impact of volcanoes on population genetics were from eruptive events greater than 50 yrs ago (e.g. Vandergast *et al.* 2004).

The impact of the 18 May 1980 eruption on the surrounding landscape was swift, violent and dramatic. All areas on the northern side and to the northeastern side of the volcano were severely affected by the debris-avalanche, blast and ashfall (Peterson 1986). The collapse of the volcano's north slope caused a debris-avalanche, leaving a deposit of rock, tephra and ash up to 195 m deep where nothing is believed to have survived (Swanson & Major 2005). The blast created a blowdown zone (approx. 570 $km^2$ of forest affected). Some plants and animals survived the blast, including some fish in 67% of the lakes within the blowdown zone, and small burrowing animals (and their commensals), such as the northern pocket gopher, *Thomonys talpoides,* which were still in their winter retreats (Andersen 1982; Andersen & MacMahon 1985; Crawford 1986). In contrast, areas to the south of the volcano were relatively unaffected except to receive approximately 5 to 25 cm of tephra fall (Dahm *et al.* 2005). Several lakes on the south side have been used in other studies as reference sites, representing pre-eruption

conditions (Wissmar *et al.* 1982; Dahm *et al.* 2005). Out of this mosaic of effects upon the landscape I delineated three treatments: new ponds, generated by the debris-avalanche when depressions in the large hummocky deposits filled with water; recovery lakes, those within the blowdown zone; and reference lakes, those unaffected by the eruption. The biota of the new ponds consist entirely of colonists. Recovery lakes contain colonists and either survivors or their descendents. Animals collected in the reference lakes should be representative of the genetic diversity present in the Mount St. Helens area prior to the eruption.

The purpose of this research was to measure the amount of genetic diversity, gene flow, and amount of population subdivision in common two amphibian species found in and around Mount St. Helens. This study is the first to examine the population genetics of any animal species in response to the 1980 eruption. Based on population genetics theory, the amount of genetic diversity in ponds colonized since the eruption should be less than that of reference areas, if low gene flow and few colonists is assumed. These assumptions are developed by making a thorough consideration of the life-history characteristics of the colonizing species. However, predictions based on life-history characters may not always hold true (Colson & Hughes 2004). Therefore, each species must be considered on its own merits.

The genetics of colonization is understudied in salamanders, especially in those species found in the western United States. Understanding the outcomes of the colonization process is important in elucidating how well amphibians can recover from a major disturbance. In this study, the disturbance is natural. However, most amphibian conservation efforts include restoring degraded or severely damaged habitats back to a

more natural state. Restoration of genetic diversity is as important as restoring numbers of animals (Mace *et al.* 1996; Reed & Frankham 2003). A colonization event could result in a large number of individuals but the population as a whole may suffer from the deleterious effects of low genetic diversity, reducing the probability that a newly restored population will persist (Reed *et al.* 2007).

I studied two species of locally common pond-breeding amphibian, *Taricha granulosa*, the rough-skinned newt, and *Ambystoma gracile*, the northwestern salamander. *Taricha granulosa* has a typical biphasic life-cycle; aquatic eggs and larvae, with terrestrial adults. Over the course of several months, adults migrate to a breeding pond, court, females lay eggs, and then leave. Upon transformation (4-5 months, depending upon site conditions), larvae depart the breeding pond, returning when sexually mature at approximately 4-5 years old (Petranka 1998). Females mate with multiple males then deposit single eggs (112-226, mean = 172) over the course of several weeks (Jones *et al.* 2002). *Taricha granulosa* is assumed to be philopatric to breeding sites because they do not appear to move far from it when not breeding (Pimentel 1960). However, a population genetics study at a geographic scale comparable to mine measured an average $F_{ST}$ value of 0.005, indicating high gene flow (Jones *et al.* 2001). The life span of *T. granulosa* is estimated to be about 12 years and they are capable of homing and returning to their capture site when displaced (Efford & Mathias 1969). *Taricha granulosa* colonized the new ponds created by the debris-avalanche 10 years post eruption and the closest source population was estimated to be 5.7 km away (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005).

*Ambystoma gracile* also has a biphasic life-style though different from *T. granulosa*. In some populations, adults do not metamorphose into a lunged, terrestrial

form but instead remain in the natal pond and upon reaching maturity, breed as gilled adults called neotenes (Sprules 1974). Current Mount St. Helens populations appear to be highly neotenic, especially in the debris-avalanche zone (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005). Females attach gelatinous egg masses, containing 40–270 eggs, to vegetation or sticks in a pond (Nussbaum *et al.* 1983; MacCracken 2007). Larvae take longer to mature (over a year) which is an extended aquatic phase as compared to most other *Ambystoma* (Eagleson 1976; Petranka 1998). The life-span of neotenic *A. gracile* is estimated to be 5 years (Efford & Mathias 1969). The lifespan of a terrestrial adult is unknown. Ambystomatid salamanders are considered highly site-fidelic, usually moving less than 1 km from their breeding ponds, exhibit low migration rates between subpopulations, and have low vagility (Spear *et al.* 2005; Gamble *et al.* 2007; Kinkead *et al.* 2007; Zamudio & Wieczorek 2007). It took 9 years for *A. gracile* to colonize the new ponds and their closest source population was 3.7 km away (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005).

Based on the life-history of these pond-breeding amphibians and population genetics theory, I predict that populations from recently colonized habitat (immigrants only) will have less genetic diversity than populations from recovering (survivors plus immigrants) or unaffected areas (source populations). New ponds, created in 1980, were not colonized by salamanders until 9 years post eruption. Since colonization, I estimate there have been only 3–5 generations of *T. granulosa* and 5–10 generations of *A. gracile*. The debris-avalanche zone appears to be a moonscape (bare rock, little vegetation) with little cover or shelter to protect migrating salamanders. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that new ponds have been colonized by only a few individuals because of the harsh environment and putative philopatry of breeding adults. Coupled with low gene

flow from other populations, new ponds should have low genetic diversity as compared to recovery lakes or source populations. Due to the rugged terrain, sampled populations across the area should also exhibit high levels of population substructure.

Another goal of this study was to compare the population genetics of two species collected from the same localities, so that they would be subjected to the same landscape and environmental conditions, to observe how differences in life-history affect the genetic diversity of colonized populations. There are few studies comparing the population genetics of two sympatric species. Miller *et al.* (2002) compared direct observation of dispersal with patterns of genetic diversity in four aerial dispersing aquatic insects and found that all four species showed different patterns of genetic diversity due to differences in dispersal ability. Monaghan *et al.* (2002) found differences in genetic patterns between three species of aquatic insects (2 mayflies, 1 caddisfly) due to differences in dispersal ability but overall, small-scale patterns were affected by demographic processes (recent habitat fragmentation within 100 yrs) and large-scale patterns were due to historical processes (habitat fragmentation on geologic scale). A forest specialist species of carabid beetle showed higher amounts of population substructuring and a lower dispersal capability than a generalist carabid beetle that could live in forest and open areas (Brouat *et al.* 2003). Matocq *et al.* (2000) used ecological and life- history differences to predict then measure the population genetic structure and amounts of gene flow in two species of sympatric spiny rats. Whiteley *et al.* (2004) found spawning location, population size and mating system were good predictors of gene flow patterns and genetic variation in sympatric populations of bull trout and mountain whitefish. They also provided a general framework for discussing the interactions among

ecological and life-history factors and neutral and adaptive divergence. Amphibian studies include the population genetics of three species of sympatric *Ambystoma* (Kinkead *et al.* 2007). Brede & Beebee (2004) found that populations of the toad *Bufo bufo*, had lower genetic variability than the frog *Rana temporaria*, even though the toad had larger breeding assemblages than the frog. They attributed this result to high levels of gene flow in the frog. Therefore, comparison of genetic diversity in sympatric species is applicable to a wide variety of ecological and evolutionary scenarios because with population genetics tools, specific hypotheses centered upon species-specific life-history differences can be addressed.

*Taricha granulosa* and *A. gracile* vary in critical life-history characteristics such as fecundity, age at first reproduction, life-span, and vagility and should respond differently to the eruption. *Taricha granulosa* is more vagile than *A. gracile* because they are less susceptible to desiccation. They also have a longer generation time resulting in fewer generations post-eruption. Comparing the two caudates, fecundity is about equal. Obviously, the first colonizers of *A. gracile* were terrestrial adults. However, current populations appear to be highly neotenic. Therefore, I predict that there have been fewer migrating *A. gracile* than *T. granulosa* and genetic diversity, as measured by heterozygosity, and gene flow, as measured by $F_{ST}$ and population substructuring, will be lower in Northwestern salamanders.

In Chapter 2, I report on the genetics of colonization in *Taricha granulosa*, the Rough-skinned newt, in lakes and ponds at Mount St. Helens using microsatellites as the molecular marker. In Chapter 3, I study the colonization genetics of *Ambystoma gracile*, the Northwestern salamander. It differs from *T. granulosa* in some key life-history traits,

most notably, reproduction in the neotenic form. At many of the same ponds where I also collected *T. granulosa*, I measured genetic diversity, gene flow and population substructure using two classes of genetic markers to determine the effects of the eruption on a natural population of this salamander over an ecological timescale. In Chapter 4, I compare the results of the two species. Because few microsatellite primers worked in *A. gracile* and because the results for both species were similar, I was unable to speculate as to which life-history variable would have attributed to any species-specific differences.

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# CHAPTER 2

# RAPID GENETIC RECOVERY BY *TARICHA GRANULOSA* (CAUDATA: SALAMANDRIDAE) AFTER THE 1980 ERUPTION OF MOUNT ST. HELENS

## Introduction

Colonization is the establishment of a population in a new area due to one or several dispersal events. The success of a colonization event is dependent on the life-history of the colonizer, the number of immigrants later adding to the new population, selective pressures during colonization, and survivorship and reproductive success after establishment (Slatkin 1977; Grant *et al.* 2001). An *a priori* expectation of colonization is a strong founder effect in the newly established population. Founder effects are characterized by an immediate loss of alleles followed by a decrease in genetic diversity and are most apparent in a population established by only a few individuals (Nei *et al.* 1975; Maruyama & Fuerst 1985; Allendorf 1986; Dlugosch & Parker 2008). Loss of genetic variability may adversely affect a population, leading to decreased fitness or an increase in the probability of extinction, especially in small populations (Hitchings & Beebee 1997; Frankham 2005; Johansson *et al.* 2007; Reed *et al.* 2007). Additionally, smaller populations are considered to be at higher risk of suffering the deleterious effects of low genetic diversity than larger ones because of drift and inbreeding (Rowe & Beebee 2003). Conservation biologists have learned that it is important to conserve both the number of individuals and the genetic diversity within a population in order to maximize fitness and avoid the loss of adaptive variation due to drift (Mace *et al.* 1996; Reed &

Frankham 2003). Therefore, newly colonized populations may be at greater risk of extinction because they are usually established by few individuals, have lower genetic diversity, and thus may suffer from the deleterious effects of inbreeding and drift (Lesbarréres *et al.* 2005; Rowe & Beebee 2005). Understanding colonization can guide research and conservation priorities, provide data for understanding demographic and dispersal patterns as related to life-history traits, and show if or how much genetic diversity is lost when a local population is extirpated and the habitat is later recolonized.

Pond-breeding amphibians (anurans and caudates) are considered to share some general life-history characteristics: low vagility, high site fidelity with respect to breeding site, slow spread across a landscape because they are prone to desiccation, low effective population size, high levels of population subdivision, and spatial dynamics comparable to metapopulations (Semlitsch & Pechmann 1985; Blaustein *et al.* 1994; Funk *et al.* 1999; Marsh & Trenham 2001; Palo *et al.* 2004). Here, the phrase "pond-breeding amphibian" denotes those species with a terrestrial adult, aquatic eggs and larvae phases, that migrate to/from a perennial or permanent breeding pond. In North America, this definition includes most salamanders in the families Ambystomatidae and Salamandridae and anurans in the traditional families Bufonidae, Hylidae, and Ranidae (Salthe 1969; Duellman & Trueb 1986). This also appears to be how some others use the term pond-breeding amphibian, especially (but not always) in reference to metapopulations (Semlitsch 1998; Petranka *et al.* 2004; Jehle *et al.* 2005; Gamble *et al.* 2007). There are other amphibians that breed in ponds (e.g. Sirenids, *Amphiuma*, Hemidactyliini, many anurans) but researchers do not seem to apply the label "pond-breeding amphibian" to them. The traditional herpetological literature recognizes three forms of salamander

larvae based on their morphology: stream, mountain-brook, and pond (Valentine & Dennis 1964) but I was unable to find any other formal definition of "pond-breeding" amphibian.

Population genetics and life history traits such as age at first reproduction, life span, fecundity, and mating system are linked through the concept of effective population size which is positively correlated with genetic diversity (Wright 1931; Kimura 1983). Newly colonized populations of a pond-breeding amphibian are expected to have low effective population size, low genetic diversity, be negatively impacted by founder effects or a bottleneck, and be subject to low gene flow. For example, genetic bottlenecks have been found in newly established (less than 20 years) and severely declining populations in *Bufo calamita* (natterjack toads) in Great Britain (Beebee & Rowe 2001). An established population of the threatened Mallorcan midwife toad, *Alytes muletensis,* showed evidence of a bottleneck in a low gene flow system (Kraaijeveld-Smit *et al.* 2005). An island population of tungara frog, *Physalaemus pustulosus,* established 12 years earlier, showed evidence of a severe bottleneck (Lampert *et al.* 2007) and recently introduced (6-12 generations) populations of bullfrogs, *Rana catesbeiana,* in Europe showed a stong genetic bottleneck (Ficetola *et al.* 2008). However, not all colonization events by amphibians may lead to a bottleneck or a reduction in genetic diversity. The crested newt, *Triturus cristatus,* showed no significant genetic bottleneck in ponds it had colonized only decades earlier (Jehle *et al.* 2001) and a few individuals of the frog *Rana ridibunda* effectively colonized Great Britain in 1935 without a strong bottleneck effect, a result attributed to their rapid expansion (Zeisset & Beebee 2003). Similarly, the cane toad, *Bufo marinus*, showed no evidence of isolation by distance after an estimated 25–35

generations in Australia (Leblois *et al.* 2000). Apparently, each species must be evaluated individually.

The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens provides a natural experiment to study colonization at the ecological time scale and a unique opportunity to assess how species recover from the effects of a major environmental disturbance (Dale *et al.* 2005). There are only two published studies on genetic impacts of the eruption, both were on plants (Bishop 1996; Yang *et al.* 2008). The genetics of colonization after a recent volcanic eruption show a variety of results. At Mount St. Helens, Bishop (1996) found evidence of founder effects in new populations of the herb, *Lupinus lepidus*, while Yang *et al.* (2008) did not find evidence for founder effects in the animal dispersed *Vaccinium membranaceum*. The fossorial rodent *Ctenomys maulinus brunnenus* experienced a drastic reduction in genetic diversity and showed evidence of a bottleneck effect three years after the 1988 eruption of the Lonquimay volcano in Chile (Gallardo *et al.* 1995) and the recolonization of *Hypochaeris tenuifolia*, a flowering herb on the same volcano, showed no loss of genetic diversity within the five founder populations (less than 10 yrs old) compared to survivor or isolated populations from other parts of the range (Tremsetsberger *et al.* 2003). There was no evidence of founder effects in a tree species that colonized young lava flows on La Réunion island (Litrico *et al.* 2005). Most studies on the impact of volcanoes on population genetics were from eruptive events greater than 50 yrs ago and emphasized evolutionary or phylogeographical events (e.g. Gillespie 2004; Vandergast *et al.* 2004; Emerson *et al.* 2006) and thus had different goals than this one.

The impact of the 18 May 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens on the surrounding landscape was swift, violent, and dramatic. All areas north and north east of the volcano were severely affected by the debris-avalanche, blast and ashfall (Peterson 1986). The eruption created a mosaic of conditions across the landscape. The debris-avalanche zone, created by the collapse of the northern flank of the volcano, was the largest landslide in recorded history, affecting 60 $km^2$ and covering the landscape in some areas with up to 195 m of rock and tephra (Swanson & Major 2005). All plant and animal life was extirpated, buried under the rubble. However, when the ash settled, new habitat was available for colonization. The blowdown zone (approx. 570 $km^2$ of forest affected) was created by the lateral blast where trees toppled, ponds and lakes heated to near-lethal temperatures. Ashfall and organic debris dramatically altered the landscape and lakes (Dahm *et al.* 2005; Swanson & Major 2005). However, snow-covered ground and ice-covered lakes provided some protection to animals in their winter retreats. Although there were survivors, subsequent mortality was high (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). For example, some fish survived in 67% of the lakes within the blowdown zone (Crawford 1986) and northern pocket gophers, *Thomomys talpoides*, were found less than a year after the eruption in the blowdown zone (Andersen 1982). Areas on the volcano's south side were relatively unaffected except for receiving about 5 to 25 cm of tephra fall (Dahm *et al.* 2005). Other post-eruption studies have used lakes on the south side as a reference (Wissmar *et al.* 1982; Dahm *et al.* 2005). In this study, reference populations are assumed to represent the levels of genetic diversity that would have been present across the entire area if the volcano had not erupted. Thus, the volcano created conditions by which both colonization and recovery can be studied in concert.

*Taricha granulosa*, the rough-skinned newt is a common pond-breeding amphibian in the Pacific Northwest with a typical amphibian biphasic life-cycle: pond-breeding, aquatic eggs and larvae, and terrestrial adults (Nussbaum *et al.* 1983). Adults migrate to a breeding pond (males arrive first), court, females lay individual eggs (122–226) over the course of several weeks, then leave (Jones *et al.* 2002). Upon transformation (4–5 months, depending upon temperature), larvae depart the breeding pond for several years, returning when sexually mature (Petranka 1998). The life span of *T. granulosa* is estimated to be about 12 years and age to first reproduction is approximately 4–5 years (Chandler 1918; Efford & Mathias 1969). They are capable of homing, returning to their capture site when displaced (Efford & Mathias 1969). *Taricha granulosa* may be philopatric with respect to breeding site, similar to *T. rivularis* (Pimentel 1960; Packer 1963; Twitty 1966; Oliver & McCurdy 1974). However, genetic studies suggest high gene flow (Jones *et al.* 2001; Kuchta & Tan 2005; Ridenhour *et al.* 2007). At Mount St. Helens, it took 10 years for *T. granulosa* to reach new ponds created by the debris-avalanche zone and the closest known source population was 5.7 km away, in the blast zone (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). Based on generation time, I estimate there have been at most 3–5 generations of *T. granulosa* in the new ponds since colonization in 1990.

This study examines the genetic response of *T. granulosa* to the eruption of Mount St. Helens by comparing genetic diversity in three treatments: new ponds (debris-avalanche), recovery areas (blowdown zone), and reference (unaffected areas). I predicted that *T. granulosa* in the new ponds (founding populations) would have less genetic variability than those from recovery populations or reference populations.

Because the terrain is rugged and likely to limit movement through the landscape, I expected to find genetic substructuring by collection sites and treatment. If *T. granulosa* are philopatric, new populations would show a strong founder effect, as evidenced by a bottleneck, and gene flow will be low, as indicated by high $F_{ST}$ values and extensive population substructuring. If *T. granulosa* moves freely across the landscape, gene flow would be high, and genetic diversity in founding populations may or may not be different than reference populations. However, since only 3 to 5 generations are estimated to have passed since the eruption, I expected to see lower genetic diversity in the new populations. This study is unique in that it is the first to examine the genetic response of any animal to the eruption at Mount St. Helens and one of a handful measuring the genetic consequences at the ecological scale of organisms in response to a contemporary volcanic eruption. Little to no loss of genetic diversity would be a positive indicator that at least one species of amphibian can quickly recover genetic diversity after major habitat loss.

## Materials and Methods

### *Study site*

This study was conducted in the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Washington State, USA (Figure 1). Collection sites were assigned to one of three treatments based on the effects of the eruption (Tables 2.1 and 2.2). The first treatment, new ponds, consisted of the Maratta and Hummocks sites, approximately 11 and 12 km northwest from the volcano's crater. Neither are discrete lakes but a collection of ponds created when the hummocky deposits from the initial landslide filled with water. Maratta is a complex of approximately 35 ponds and Hummocks is a complex of approximately

15 ponds within the boundary delineated by the Hummocks (Forest Service Trail 229) trail. These ponds are now surrounded by red alder (*Alnus rubra*) and small willows (*Salix* spp.). The area between ponds is mainly loose piles of rock and tephra, covered with small herbs and grasses. The second treatment, recovery lakes, were pre-existing that occur in the blowdown zone. St. Charles (13km NE of the crater), Strawberry (17.8 km NE) and Ghost (16.9km NE) Lakes all have open canopies but some trees and shrubs are growing up around them. Tephra is the predominate substrate for these lakes and surrounding area. Treatment three, references lakes, were Goat Marsh and McBride, 8.4 and 8.2 km southwest of the crater. Goat Marsh Lake is surrounded by forest (primarily *Abies*, *Pseudotsuga* and *Tsuga*) and is in a research natural area (Franklin & Wiberg 1979) and the southern slope of Mount St. Helens is clearly visible from Goat Marsh Lake. McBride Lake is also surrounded by coniferous forest characteristic of the area (Franklin & Dyrness 1973). Using Goat Marsh and McBride lakes as reference is not unusual. Others have used lakes on the southern side of Mount St. Helens as reference sites for their post-eruption studies (Wissmar *et al.* 1982; Dahm *et al.* 2005).

*Population sampling*

I captured *T. granulosa* in May-June 2003 and in July 2005 using minnow traps (set and left overnight) and dipnet (Table 2.2). Collection effort by site and year is in Appendix A. Collection sites were chosen based on the probability that they would contain *T. granulosa* (Crisafulli, pers comm.) and were accessible within a 3 hr hike. I captured adults except for these number of small larvae (young of 2005); 1 in St. Charles Lake, 21 in Goat Marsh, and 7 in McBride Lake. *Taricha granulosa* was collected from all localities both years except for Strawberry Lake, which was sampled only in 2005.

They were immediately released at their capture site after taking a tissue sample by removing approximately 1 cm of tail tip from each individual.

*DNA extraction and microsatellite amplification*

Each tissue was stored individually in 95% ethanol until return to the lab when samples were stored at -80º C. Total genomic DNA was isolated by digesting approximately 0.5mm of tissue sample in 550µl of lysis buffer (50mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 10mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 200mM NaCl) with 11 µl of Proteinase K (20 µg/ml) at 55º C followed by either a chloroform purification and isopropanol precipitation (Mullenbach *et al.* 1989) or Qiagen DNeasy kits (Qiagen, Inc, Valencia, CA). I used a Nanodrop ND-1000 Spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies, Wilmington, DE) to measure the concentration of the isolated DNA and used $ddH_2O$ to standardize each sample to 25ng/µL.

I used six *T. granulosa* microsatellite loci: Tgr 01, Tgr 02, Tgr 04, Tgr 06, Tgr 10, and Tgr 14 (Jones *et al.* 2001). Each PCR was carried out in a 20µL total volume with 50ng of DNA. Reagents were as in Jones *et al.* (2001) with modifications to annealing temperatures, primer concentrations, and $MgCl_2$ concentrations (Table 2.3). Thermal cycling was preceded by a 2 min denaturation at 92º C and followed by a 5 min extension period at 72º C. Each PCR consisted of 35 cycles. A cycle consisted of 1 min at 92º C, 1 min at the optimal annealing temperature and 2 min at 72º C for extension. Fragments were separated and visualized on an ABI PRISM® 3730 DNA Analyzer by the Nevada Genomics Center, Reno, NV for all loci except Tgr 02 which was run on an ABI PRISM® 3100 Genetic Analyzer by the Center for Integrated BioSystems at Utah State

University, Logan, UT. I used GENEMAPPER 3.0 (Applied Biosystems Inc.) to score each sample and rounded allele sizes to the appropriate whole number.

*Data analysis*

Data were analyzed by collection site and by treatment. I used GENEPOP web version 3.4 (Raymond & Rousset 1995) and FSTAT (Goudet 2001) to determine if the results varied by year. I found no significant differences so I pooled all years. I used ARLEQUIN version 3.1 (Excoffier *et al.* 2005) to estimate observed ($H_O$) and expected ($H_E$) heterozygosities, calculate pairwise $F_{ST}$ values and their significant values (10100 permutations), and AMOVA (Analysis of molecular variation; distance method: number of alleles;16000 permutations) to look for evidence of genetic substructure by collection site and treatment group. The AMOVA tested each treatment with two populations (collection sites) per group. I used GENEPOP to test for departures from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) and linkage disequilibrium (LD). FSTAT was used to calculate genetic diversity indices such as number of alleles, allelic richness (corrected for minimum sample size), Nei's gene diversity, $F_{IS}$ and $F_{ST}$ values, and average relatedness of individuals within samples when compared to the whole, corrected for population substructure. I tested for null alleles and scoring errors using MICROCHECKER (Van Oosterhout *et al.* 2004) at three different levels: all samples pooled, samples by treatment, and samples by collection site. I set the confidence interval for Bonferroni with 1000 Monte-Carlo simulations. I tested for isolation by distance with a Mantel test (9999 permutations) conducted in TFPGA (Miller 1997) with Nei's unbiased genetic distances from GENALEX 6.1 (Peakall & Smouse 2006) and geographic distance between

collection sites (accounting for topography) measured with TOPO 6.0 (DeLorme, Yarmouth, ME).

When a population loses a large number of individuals (bottleneck) or is descended from a few number of individuals (founder effects), alleles are lost more rapidly than heterozygosity (Maruyama & Fuerst 1985; Allendorf 1986). To test for a bottleneck, I used the program BOTTLENECK (Cornuet & Luikart 1997) using the stepwise mutational model (SMM) and two-phased model of mutation (TPM). This program develops a distribution of expected heterozygosity values under mutation drift equilibrium and compares that with observed heterozygosity to determine if there is a heterozygote excess or deficiency at each locus. Statistical tests determine whether the allele frequency distribution is approximately L-shaped, as would be expected if the population had not undergone a bottleneck. I used the sign test only when collection sites were grouped by treatment to meet the minimal requirements of the test (Luikart & Cornuet 1998) and the Wilcoxon test for individual collection sites and treatments. Based on the authors' recommendations, I set TPM with probability equal to 95%, variance set at 10% and 10,000 replications. I also used GENALEX 6.1 to visualize population structuring by treatment performing a principal component analysis (PCA) of genotypic distances using a standardized covariance matrix with 9999 permutations. PCA makes no prior assumptions about population structure.

## Results

All loci were highly polymorphic (Table 2.4). Tgr 04 had the lowest observed heterozygosity of any loci at all collection sites and showed evidence of null alleles with all animals pooled (102 homozygotes observed, 48.3 expected, $P < 0.001$) or by treatment

($P < 0.001$). Therefore, it was eliminated from further analysis. There was no evidence of significant linkage disequilibrium or departures from HWE either by collection site or by treatment for all remaining loci. By treatment, levels of genetic diversity were high and had small $F_{IS}$ values (Table 2.5).

There were no significant differences in allelic richness, $H_E$, $H_S$, $F_{IS}$, $F_{ST}$, or relatedness when individual collection sites were grouped by treatment (Table 2.6). Pairwise $F_{ST}$ values by collection site and treatment were low. By collection site, only two $F_{ST}$ values were significantly different from each other, Goat Marsh Lake with Strawberry and Goat Marsh with St. Charles Lake (Table 2.7). There was no evidence of population substructure indicated by AMOVA. By treatment, 98.92% ($P< 0.001$) of the variation was within populations (collection sites). Less than 1% of the variation was among treatments (0.67%, $P = 0.0650$) or among collection sites within treatments (0.41%, $P = 0.0809$). There was no evidence for a relationship between genetic distance and geographic distance (Figure 2.2; Mantel test, $r = 0.3544$, $Z = 15.51$, $P = 0.0539$). Principal components analysis showed extensive overlap between treatments (Figure 3) indicating low levels of genetic structuring. PC axis 1 explains 22.9% of the variation, axis 2 explains 18.0% and axis 3 explains 16.5% for a cumulative total of 57.4%.

BOTTLENECK tests showed no evidence of recent bottlenecks either by treatment or by collection site under SMM or TPM by either the sign or Wilcoxon test. The smallest P value testing by treatment was 0.3125 (Wilcoxon, TPM, blowdown). The smallest P value for the testing by collection site was 0.0941 (Sign test, SMM, Goat Marsh Lake). Allele frequency distribution did not deviate significantly from the L-

shaped distribution expected under mutation-drift equilibrium by treatment or collection site.

## Discussion

*Taricha granulosa* collected around Mount St. Helens did not show population structure. Rather, they appeared to be part of a panmictic population. There was no evidence of isolation by distance (IBD) and no measurable loss of genetic variability in the new or recovery populations. New ponds, resulting from the eruption, appear to have been colonized by a large number of individuals. Recovery ponds either had a large number of survivors, large migration pulse(s) or both. Pre-eruption Mount St. Helens was mostly surrounded by National Forest and managed forest lands, both of which most likely harbored large source populations (Franklin *et al.* 1995). Slatkin's (1993) examination of isolation by distance models found that failure to find evidence of IBD for species with low $F_{ST}$ values may indicate recent colonization, a result supported by these data. The results also suggest that *T. granulosa* are not site-fidelic with regards to breeding and that they move extensively and perhaps randomly (at least to us) across the landscape.

Other genetic studies support this result. *Taricha granulosa* from two Oregon populations separated by 16 km (a distance within the geographic scale of this study) showed significant differences in distributions of allele frequencies with five microsatellite loci but also displayed high levels of gene flow ($F_{ST}$ = 0.005; Jones *et al.* 2001). At larger scales, high gene flow, represented by low levels of population substructure ($\theta_{ST}$ = 0.031), characterized populations from 20 sites across three transects in the Pacific Northwest. Isolation by distance was detected at the 200-km scale

(Ridenhour *et al.* 2007). Finally, in an indirect measure of gene flow covering the entire range of *T. granulosa*, the largest Nei's genetic distance ($D_N$; between a CA and a WA population) was 0.247 but the average among a cluster of WA to AK populations was low, $D_N$=0.013 (Kuchta & Tan 2005). While not a direct measure of gene flow at an ecological scale, these populations of *T. granulosa* were not completely isolated from one another as some population groupings did not show isolation by distance (Kuchta & Tan 2005). Therefore, high gene flow may be normal for *T. granulosa*.

Alternatively, short dispersal distances of *T. granulosa* observed in ecological studies and high gene flow measured in molecular studies can be reconciled through their mating system and large clutch size if populations had been founded by a few individuals. If you compared a polyandrous population with a monogamous one, heterozygosity could theoretically remain equal but the number of different allele combinations and allelic richness would be higher in the polyandrous population. *Taricha granulosa* are polyandrous and females store sperm from multiple males (2–5, mean 2.1) via a "topping off" mechanism where sperm from the first male has precedence (Jones *et al*. 2002). Mating continues until a female's spermathecae are full (Jones *et al.* 2002). This could result in an effective population size greater than the census population size (Baer & Schmid-Hempel 1999; Trontti *et al.* 2007). Polyandry in caudates is not unique to *T. granulosa* but is also found in *Ambystoma, Plethodon, Desmognathus, Salamandra* and *Lissotriton* (ex *Triturus*; Myers & Zamudio 2004; Adams *et al.* 2005; Gopurenko *et al.* 2006; Liebgold *et al.* 2006; Steinfartz *et al.* 2006; Jehle *et al.* 2007). With a clutch size in *T. granulosa* ranging from 122–226 eggs (Jones *et al.* 2002), even a few individuals could dramatically influence the allelic richness in subsequent generations, a process

similar to some *Ambystoma* (Kinkead *et al.* 2007) but not others (Zamudio & Wieczorek 2007). Multiple paternity has resulted in increased genetic diversity in other organisms including *Anolis* lizards, loggerhead sea turtles, and blue tits (Foerster *et al.* 2003; Calsbeek *et al.* 2007; Zbinden *et al.* 2007). However, in *Ambystoma maculatum,* individual larvae sired by stored sperm had lower genetic diversity than expected by chance (Chandler & Zamudio 2008) and in lemon sharks, *Negaprion brevirostris*, polyandrous litters did not have greater genetic diversity than monoandrous litters (DiBattista *et al.* 2008). To determine whether polyandry in *T. granulosa* increases genetic variability in the next generation of founder populations requires further testing but it could contribute to no loss of alleles in the new ponds of this study.

Remarkably, new populations showed no significant loss of genetic diversity, by collection site or treatment, even after only 3 to 5 generations (at most) passed since the eruption. It is well known that only one migrant is needed to introduce new alleles and prevent drift. In other taxa, known demographic declines have not always shown a detectable genetic bottleneck effect. For example, a population of kangaroo rats, *Dipodomys spectabilis,* although having suffered a 50% reduction in the number of adults, did not show any genetic evidence of a bottleneck when tested 5–6 generations after the major demographic decline (Busch *et al.* 2007). This result was attributed to immigration despite extensive mark-recapture and trapping studies showing low dispersal rates in Kangaroo rats. In ornate box turtles, *Terrapene ornata*, the failure to detect a bottleneck approximately six generations post disturbance was attributed to their long lifespan (Kuo & Janzen 2004). Other examples due to long lifespan or generation time include the copper redhorse, *Moxostoma hubbsi,* which takes at least 10 years to reach

maturity (Lippe *et al.* 2006) and the white-tailed eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla* (Hailer *et al.* 2006). In the case of *T. granulosa,* high migration rates and a polyandrous mating system are the processes most likely erasing any bottleneck signature. In those taxa where genetic methods may be the only means available for determining demographic trends (Spear *et al.* 2006), any evidence of a bottleneck should be viewed with alarm, especially in sensitive or imperiled species. As in fish species with high gene flow (Waples 1998), the lack of a genetic signal indicating population differentiation should be viewed cautiously so that populations that really are discrete are not inappropriately grouped with others.

There may be few constraints on *T. granulosa* dispersal, especially across open areas, as would be encountered at Mount St. Helens. Across their entire range, *T. granulosa* may prefer to migrate across open areas and prefer (when not breeding) drier microclimates within their normal range. Landscape disturbances, such as clear cuts, do not appear to negatively impact presence in the Oregon Coast Range (Cole *et al.* 1997). Additionally, *T. granulosa* had the highest mean relative abundance (compared to 8 other salamanders) in clearcuts. Abundance in clearcuts was higher than in old growth stands and they were found in 100% of the dry stands (Corn & Bury 1991). However, presence of *T. granulosa* may just represent movement of animals through the forest to breeding sites (Bury *et al.* 1991). In a private industrial forest approximately 9 km north of Mount St. Helens, *T. granulosa* were most closely associated with open wetlands and early successional habitats (clear cut and sapling conifer) (Bosakowski 1999). *Taricha granulosa* were present (although not in large numbers) in both clearcut and forested sites in a managed forest in Southwest Washington State (Grialou *et al.* 2000) and although

few animals were found (N= 34 over 2 yrs), 80% of these were captured in a clearcut or in pre-canopy forest in another managed, second-growth forest in western Washington State (Aubry 2000). Bury and Corn (1988) found that *T. granulosa* prefer drier old growth forest and are also found in young forest and clearcuts. In the Mattolle River watershed (coastal Northern California), *T. granulosa* were most closely associated with grasslands and second growth forest rather than late serial forest (Welsh *et al*. 2005). Additionally, *T. granulosa* appear to choose clear migration routes and were positively associated with bare ground in managed forest land during a spring trapping season, potentially due to migration to breeding ponds and selection for clear pathways (Butts & McComb 2000). When not using streams as migratory corridors, *T. granulosa* used portions of a dirt road at two localities (Pimentel 1960). Thus, the terrain surrounding the new ponds may have been attractive to *T. granulosa* as an obstacle-free environment, promoting instead of deterring migration.

For juveniles, how far they migrate into the landscape to mature sexually or how they subsequently "choose" a breeding pond is unknown. Because smaller amphibians are less resistant to desiccation than larger ones (Spight 1968), it cannot be assumed that the habitat preferences of adults are the same as for juveniles (Rothermel & Semlitsch 2002). Burrows created by fossorial northern pocket gophers, *Thomomys talpoides*, which were found throughout the affected areas at Mount St. Helens (Andersen 1982; Andersen & MacMahon 1985), could certainly act as refuges for dispersing *T. granulosa*. Additionally, *T. granulosa* are hardy creatures and capable of surviving challenging environmental conditions. Pimentel (1960) buried 10 *T. granulosa* for six months and stored them at 15.6ºC. Although desiccated, seven survived and appeared normal after

rehydration. He also placed 10 *T. granulosa* in an earth-filled outdoor enclosure where they lived without food or water for four months. Nine survived and moved to water when soil moisture increased. Therefore, what may appear to be an inhospitable landscape may in fact be a survivable habitat.

This study also highlights how different types of studies (e.g. demographic, ecological or molecular) may lead to different conclusions (e.g. Busch *et al.* 2007). If only non-genetic studies were considered, one would conclude that *T. granulosa* behave similarly to other typical pond-breeding amphibians: poor dispersal, site-fidelic, low gene flow, and metapopulation structure. For example, *Taricha rivularis*, a closely related species, traveled at least 8.0 km over rough terrain and across areas of suitable breeding habitat to return to within approximately 15 m of their original capture site (Packer 1963; Grant *et al.* 1968). *Taricha granulosa* are also capable of homing, similar to, although not as dramatic as *T. rivularis*. In a British Columbia population, over 96% of the *T. granulosa* captured in inlet or outlet streams then released in the middle of a lake, returned to their capture location. The furthest distance moved was 550 m and one salamander moved at an average of 56 m/hr, returning to its capture location in 9 hrs (Efford & Mathias 1969). A later study at the same locality found similar results (Neish 1971).

Two additional studies also support the conclusion that *T. granulosa* remain in or near their breeding ponds. In Oregon, most were believed to have moved to underground retreats within 6.2–23 m of their breeding pond with an estimate of 90% moving to underground retreats within 61.5 m of their breeding pond (Pimentel 1960). On southern Vancouver Island, females overwintered on land, migrating into the pond to breed in the

spring and departing in the fall. Newly metamorphosed juveniles also left their natal pond in the fall while males appeared to be permanently aquatic (Oliver & McCurdy 1974). However, males in an Oregon population were not permanently aquatic and left breeding ponds at the same rates as females (Pimentel 1960). Pimentel (1960) also described a new movement activity, wandering, consisting of short departures (1 to 45 days) from a breeding pond, generally limited to short distances. While highly valuable, life-history and ecological studies may not match genetic data due to the differences in underlying assumptions (Schmeller & Merila 2007). Additionally, different molecular markers (mitochondrial versus nuclear) may produce different conclusions (Monsen & Blouin 2003; Canestrelli *et al.* 2007). Dependence on one type of data could lead to poor conservation recommendations. If an endangered species is involved, we cannot afford to choose poorly.

The rapid recovery and colonization of new ponds by *T. granulosa* is good news. Given large source populations and time, this species is resistant to large environmental disturbances. Loss of genetic variability in new populations cannot automatically be assumed. The results from demographic, ecological and behavior studies, even within the same species do not always lead to the same conclusion (e.g. Perret *et al.* 2003; Kinkead *et al.* 2007) and amphibian spatial dynamics are more complex than the metapopulation model (Marsh & Trenham 2001; Smith & Green 2005). In plants, life-history traits were poor predictors of population genetic structure (Duminil *et al.* 2007). There are over 60 species of anuran and caudates that could be classified as a pond-breeding amphibian, by my definition, in the United States (Lannoo 2005). *Taricha granulosa* is a classic pond-breeding amphibian. However, they are not site-fidelic, have high gene flow, are good

dispersers and ready colonizers. Thus, I caution against using labels such as "pond-breeding amphibian" as a general predictor variable when making conservation recommendations, especially in poorly-known species. I recommend increased use of the complex life cycle concept (Istock 1967; Wilbur 1980) in its place. I agree with Cushman (2006) that more species specific knowledge in a landscape setting is needed to improve and refine amphibian conservation strategies.

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Table 2.1. Effects of 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens on the local landscape (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005a; Swanson & Major 2005). The eruption also generated mudflows but these were localized to drainages and are not under consideration.

| Zone | Caused by | Characterized by | Created | Survivors | Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debris-Avalanche | Collapse and landslide of volcano's north slope. | Hummocks/hills of rock. Covering of landscape by rock to 195m. | A clean slate with new lakes and ponds nonexistent prior to the eruption. | None | New |
| Blow down | High pressure blast, Air temps to 300ºC**.** High velocity rock and tephra moving across landscape. | Blowdown of trees, heating of lakes/ponds, heavy levels of ash and organic material into lakes/ponds. | Complex mosaic of disturbance dependent upon topography and distance from volcano. | Some (fossorial animals, fish, *T. granulosa*, *A. gracile*, underground plant parts) | Recovery |
| Reference | South of volcano. Not in direct path of eruptive forces. | Life as normal. Some ash/tephra fall. | No major effects. | Probably 100% | Reference |

Table 2.2. Total collections of *Taricha granulosa* by zone and treatment (TRMT) in and around the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. DA is Debris-Avalanche, BLOW is Blowdown, REF is Reference, REC is Recovery, and N is the total number of animals collected. Latitude, longitude, and elevation were measured with a handheld GPS. Latitude and longitude are in degrees and minutes.

| | Zone | TRMT | N | Lat (N) | Long (W) | Elevation (m) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maratta complex | DA | NEW | | | | |
| M5 | | | 1 | 46 17.48 | 122 16.98 | 730.8 |
| M6 | | | 10 | 46 17.47 | 122 16.97 | 749.8 |
| M26 | | | 1 | Not recorded | | |
| M27 | | | 3 | 46 17.54 | 122 17.05 | 725.2 |
| M28 | | | 1 | Not recorded | | |
| M30 | | | 8 | 46 17.52 | 122 16.98 | 744.3 |
| Hummocks complex | DA | NEW | | | | |
| H6 | | | 4 | 46 16.77 | 122 16.15 | 763.7 |
| H23 | | | 2 | 46 16.81 | 122 16.22 | 765.2 |
| St Charles Lake | BLOW | REC | 11 | 46 19.34 | 122 05.23 | 1223.4 |
| Strawberry Lake | BLOW | REC | 46* | 46 19.64 | 122 03.21 | 1456.0 |
| Ghost Lake** | BLOW | REC | 2 | 46 19.17 | 122 03.68 | 1154.2 |
| Goat Marsh Lake | REF | REF | 106 | 46 08.42 | 122 16.72 | 889.8 |
| McBride Lake | REF | REF | 52 | 46 08.44 | 122 15.11 | 830.7 |

*Many more were observed visually. **Ghost Lake not included in any analysis due to small sample size.

Table 2.3. PCR Conditions and basic data on six microsatellite loci for *T. granulosa* from MSHNVM. Some reaction conditions differ from Jones *et al.* (2001).

| Locus | Anneal temp ºC | $MgCl_2$ mM | Primer mM | Dye | Size range (base pairs) | Total alleles all pops |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tgr01 | 56 | 1.50 | 2.0 | 6 FAM | 215–271 (tetra) | 14 |
| Tgr02 | 56 | 1.50 | 1.5 | HEX | 179–255 (bi & tetra) | 16 |
| Tgr04 | 56 | 1.50 | 2.0 | NED | 207–235 (bi & tetra) | 9 |
| Tgr06 | 59 | 1.50 | 1.5 | VIC | 145–173 (bi & tetra) | 12 |
| Tgr10 | 56 | 1.75 | 1.5 | NED | 174–214 (tetra) | 11 |
| Tgr14 | 57 | 1.50 | 2.0 | 6-FAM | 218–328 (tetra) | 31 |

Table 2.4. Genetic measures for 6 *T. granulosa* microsatellite loci (L) by collection site. N is the number of animals genotyped for that locus, and $H_O$, $H_E$ are observed and expected heterozygosities. $F_{IS}$ is a within population estimation of inbreeding. A is the number of alleles and R is the allelic richness (corrected for minimum sample size (6) using rarefaction (Leberg 2002). An allele frequency table is in Appendix B.

| | Maratta | | | | | | Hummocks | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R |
| Tgr 01 | 26 | 0.8077 | 0.8778 | 0.081 | 12 | 6.89 | 6 | 1.0000 | 0.8788 | -0.154 | 7 | 7.00 |
| Tgr 02 | 26 | 0.8462 | 0.8477 | 0.002 | 9 | 5.94 | 6 | 0.8333 | 0.9091 | 0.091 | 7 | 7.00 |
| Tgr 06 | 25 | 0.8000 | 0.7894 | -0.014 | 8 | 5.31 | 6 | 0.6667 | 0.7576 | 0.130 | 5 | 5.00 |
| Tgr 10 | 26 | 0.8077 | 0.8559 | 0.057 | 10 | 6.26 | 6 | 1.0000 | 0.8939 | -0.132 | 7 | 7.00 |
| Tgr 14 | 26 | 0.9615 | 0.9479 | -0.015 | 20 | 9.11 | 6 | 1.0000 | 0.9545 | -0.053 | 9 | 9.00 |
| ALL | | 0.8446 | 0.8638 | 0.034 | | | | 0.9000 | 0.8788 | -0.003 | | |

| | St. Charles | | | | | | Strawberry | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R |
| Tgr 01 | 11 | 0.9091 | 0.8788 | -0.036 | 8 | 6.66 | 41 | 0.8780 | 0.8681 | -0.012 | 11 | 6.62 |
| Tgr 02 | 11 | 0.5454 | 0.8311 | 0.355 | 6 | 5.25 | 37 | 0.7568 | 0.8012 | 0.056 | 10 | 5.73 |
| Tgr 06 | 11 | 0.8181 | 0.7879 | -0.040 | 7 | 5.38 | 41 | 0.8293 | 0.8244 | -0.006 | 10 | 5.75 |
| Tgr 10 | 11 | 0.9091 | 0.8874 | -0.026 | 8 | 6.62 | 41 | 0.7317 | 0.8341 | 0.124 | 8 | 5.71 |
| Tgr 14 | 11 | 0.8182 | 0.8788 | 0.072 | 11 | 7.47 | 41 | 0.9024 | 0.9407 | 0.041 | 20 | 8.82 |
| ALL | | 0.8000 | 0.8528 | 0.047 | | | | 0.8196 | 0.8537 | 0.078 | | |

| | Goat Marsh | | | | | | McBride | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R |
| Tgr 01 | 75 | 0.8400 | 0.8197 | -0.025 | 10 | 5.54 | 43 | 0.8607 | 0.8159 | -0.055 | 12 | 5.81 |
| Tgr 02 | 73 | 0.8630 | 0.8428 | -0.024 | 13 | 6.08 | 40 | 0.9000 | 0.8674 | -0.038 | 14 | 6.52 |
| Tgr 06 | 76 | 0.7895 | 0.8024 | 0.016 | 9 | 5.30 | 41 | 0.8049 | 0.8329 | 0.034 | 9 | 5.75 |
| Tgr 10 | 75 | 0.8800 | 0.8484 | -0.037 | 11 | 6.05 | 43 | 0.8605 | 0.8509 | -0.011 | 11 | 6.27 |
| Tgr 14 | 74 | 0.9459 | 0.9500 | 0.004 | 25 | 9.26 | 41 | 0.9512 | 0.9446 | -0.007 | 22 | 9.06 |
| ALL | | 0.8637 | 0.8527 | 0.054 | | | | 0.8754 | 0.8623 | 0.063 | | |

Table 2.5. Genetic measures for 5 *T. granulosa* microsatellite loci by treatment. Tgr 04 is not included because it contains a null allele in several populations. A is the number of alleles, R is allelic richness (corrected for minimum sample size (31) using rarefaction (Leberg 2002), N is the number of animals genotyped for that locus, $H_O$ and $H_E$ are observed and expected heterozygosities. $F_{IS}$ is a within population estimation of inbreeding.

| | total | | NEW | | | | | | RECOVERY | | | | | | REFERENCE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Locus | A | R | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R | N | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{IS}$ | A | R |
| Tgr 01 | 14 | 10.58 | 32 | 0.8438 | 0.8834 | 0.046 | 13 | 12.90 | 54 | 0.8846 | 0.8799 | -0.005 | 11 | 10.43 | 118 | 0.8475 | 0.8191 | -0.035 | 12 | 9.58 |
| Tgr 02 | 16 | 10.52 | 32 | 0.8438 | 0.8492 | 0.007 | 9 | 8.97 | 50 | 0.7083 | 0.8092 | 0.126 | 10 | 9.36 | 113 | 0.8761 | 0.8557 | -0.024 | 15 | 11.12 |
| Tgr 06 | 12 | 9.01 | 31 | 0.7742 | 0.7784 | 0.006 | 8 | 8.00 | 54 | 0.8269 | 0.8219 | -0.006 | 10 | 9.44 | 117 | 0.7949 | 0.8122 | 0.021 | 10 | 8.72 |
| Tgr 10 | 11 | 9.50 | 32 | 0.8438 | 0.8517 | 0.009 | 10 | 9.94 | 54 | 0.7692 | 0.8536 | 0.100 | 8 | 7.96 | 118 | 0.8729 | 0.8482 | -0.029 | 11 | 9.85 |
| Tgr 14 | 31 | 21.59 | 32 | 0.9688 | 0.9464 | -0.024 | 21 | 20.78 | 54 | 0.8846 | 0.9350 | 0.054 | 21 | 18.34 | 115 | 0.9478 | 0.9492 | 0.001 | 28 | 22.01 |
| means | | | | 0.8548 | 0.8618 | 0.008 | | | | 0.8147 | 0.9599 | 0.053 | | | | 0.8678 | 0.8569 | -0.013 | | |

Table 2.6. Comparisons between treatment groups over all loci in *T. granulosa* at MSHNVM. R is allelic richness, $H_O$ is observed heterozygosity, $H_S$ is Nei's (1987) gene diversity, $F_{IS}$ is a within population estimate of inbreeding, $F_{ST}$ is a measure of among population genetic diversity and Relc is the average relatedness of individuals within samples when compared to the whole, corrected for population structure.

| | New | Recovery | Reference | P value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | 6.86 | 6.40 | 6.56 | 0.1980 |
| $H_O$ | 0.855 | 0.815 | 0.868 | 0.2001 |
| $H_S$ | 0.867 | 0.854 | 0.856 | 0.2034 |
| $F_{IS}$ | 0.014 | 0.046 | -0.014 | 0.2001 |
| $F_{ST}$ | -0.018 | 0.020 | 0.002 | 0.1870 |
| Relc | -0.028 | -0.097 | 0.027 | 0.2001 |

Table 2.7. Pairwise $F_{ST}$ values and P-values by collection site. Number above the diagonal is the $F_{ST}$ value, number below is the exact P-value obtained after 10100 permutations. Alpha, signifying a difference, adjusted for multiple comparisons is 0.00333. Significant values are bolded.

| | Maratta | Hummocks | St Charles | Strawberry | Goat Marsh | McBride |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maratta | | -0.0167 | 0.0227 | 0.0109 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 |
| Hummocks | 0.9275 | | 0.0086 | 0.0013 | -0.0015 | -0.0017 |
| St. Charles | 0.0127 | 0.3292 | | 0.0214 | 0.0330 | 0.0216 |
| Strawberry | 0.0154 | 0.4550 | 0.0091 | | 0.0167 | 0.0095 |
| Goat Marsh | 0.3936 | 0.4683 | **0.0001** | < 0.0010 | | 0.0020 |
| McBride | 0.2059 | 0.4570 | 0.0046 | 0.0040 | 0.1487 | |

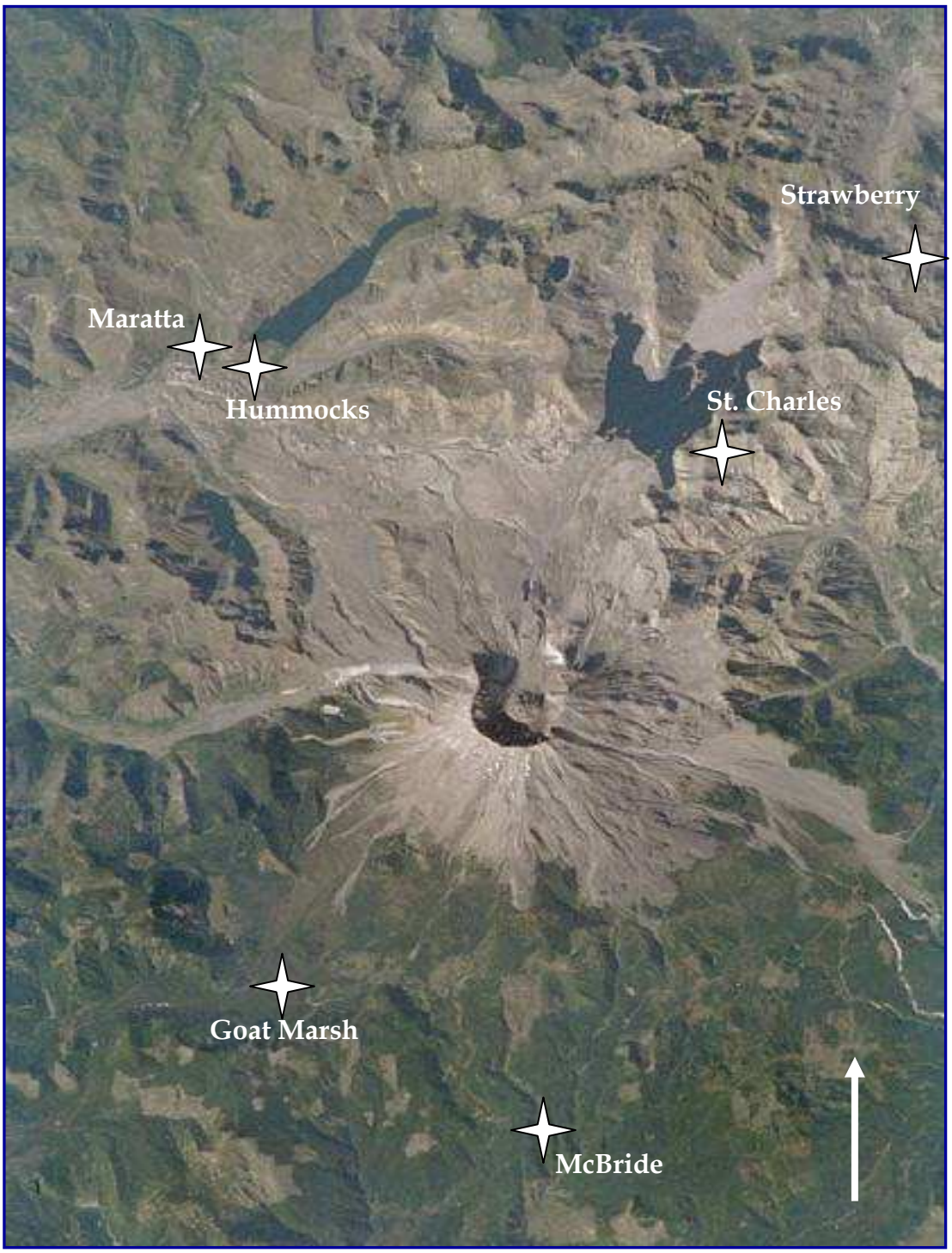


Figure 2.1. Collection sites at MSHNVM. White arrow points north. New ponds are Maratta and Hummocks in the debris-avalanche zone, recovery lakes are St. Charles and Strawberry Lakes in the blowdown-zone, and reference lakes are Goat Marsh and McBride Lakes. Linear distance between Strawberry and McBride Lake is 26.14 km.

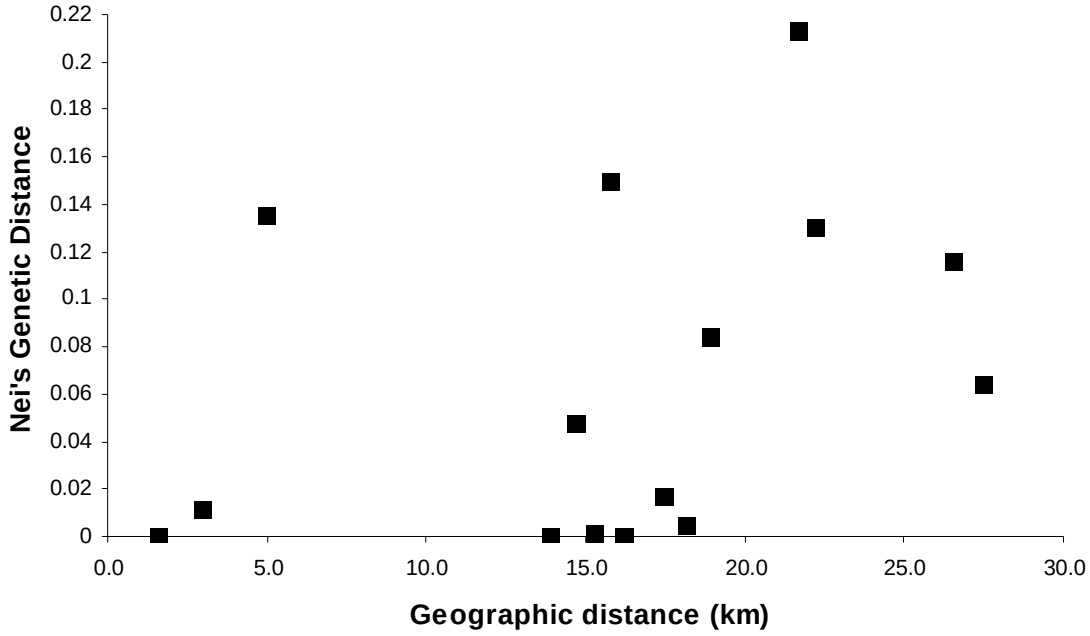


Figure 2.2. Isolation by distance in *T. granulosa* from six collection sites in MSHNVM. Negative genetic distances were converted to zero. A table of distances (geographic and Nei's is in Appendix C).

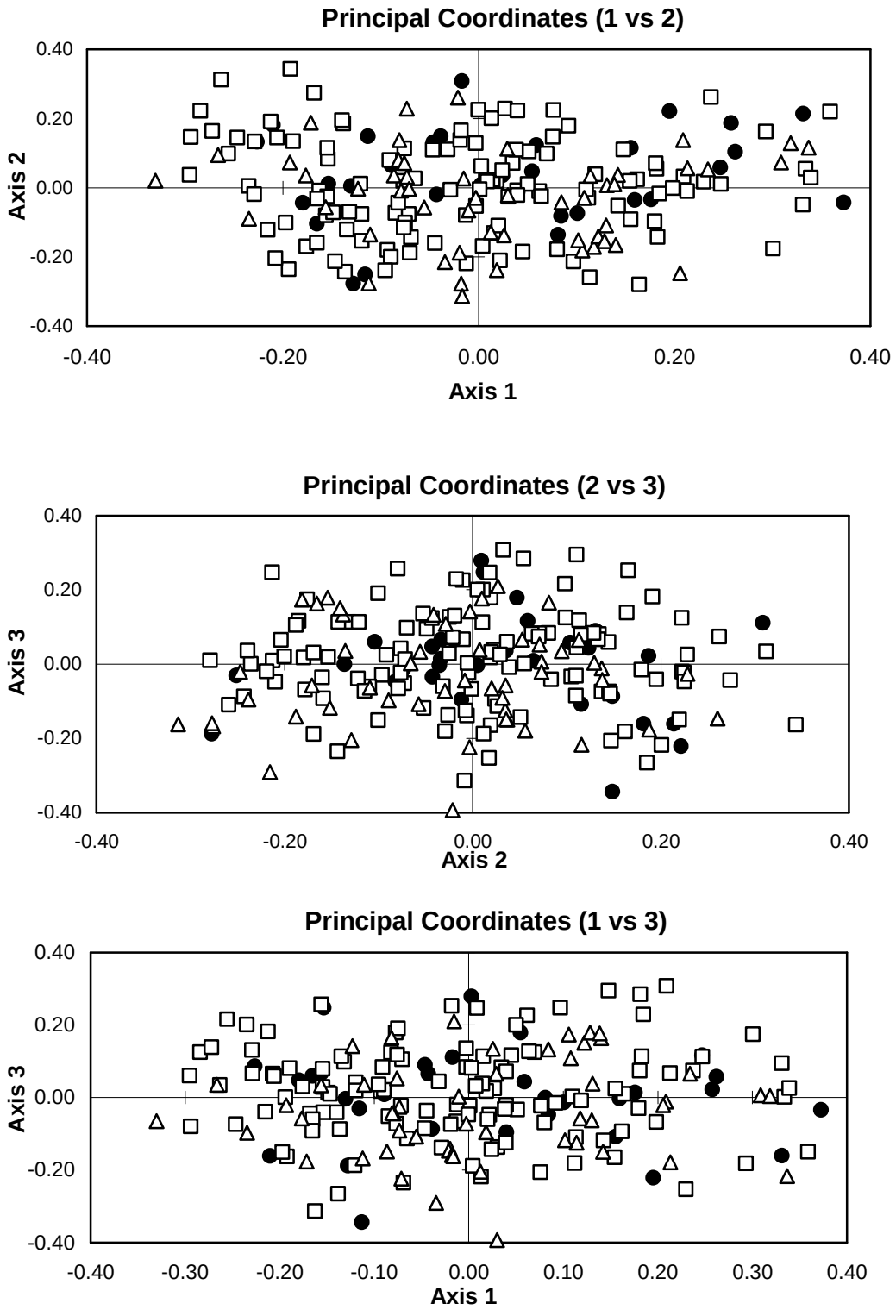


Figure 2.3. Principal components analysis for *T. granulosa* at MSHNVM by treatment. New populations are represented by filled circles, recovery populations by open triangles and reference populations by open squares.

# CHAPTER 3

# GENETICS OF COLONIZATION IN *AMBYSTOMA GRACILE* (CAUDATA: AMBYSTOMATIDAE) AFTER THE 1980 ERUPTION OF MOUNT ST. HELENS

## Introduction

Colonization is the result of a dispersal event that leads to the establishment of an organism into an area from which it was previously absent. Factors that lead to colonization are varied. Within an organism's traditional range, there may be an environmental disturbance that creates new, suitable habitat or previously degraded habitat has been restored. Individuals may disperse into new habitats or ecosystems via invasion or range expansion. Depending on the circumstances of the colonization event and the life-history characteristics of the species, founding populations may lose alleles and genetic diversity as compared to source populations (Nei *et al.* 1975; Allendorf 1986; Whitlock & McCauley 1990). Whether founder populations gain or lose genetic variability is of great interest because genetic diversity is directly related to population fitness (Reed & Frankham 2003; Reed *et al.* 2007).

Amphibian decline is of great concern for conservationists (Mendelson *et al.* 2006) and the list of adverse factors only seems to increase (Becker *et al.* 2007). Many species are imperiled through habitat fragmentation or outright habitat destruction. Although some restoration efforts have resulted in colonization events (e.g. Pechmann *et al.* 2001; Willson & Dorcas 2003; Brodman *et al.* 2006; Petranka *et al.* 2007), the genetic impacts are unclear. For example, an island-population of tungara frogs, established 12

years prior to the study, showed evidence of a genetic bottleneck (Lampert *et al.* 2007) but in contrast, a recently (past 70 years) fragmented frog population showed low levels of population subdivision (Vos *et al.* 2001). Human-caused habitat fragmentation over a large scale (> 100 km) left a genetic signal in a widespread and common anuran, *Physalaemus cuvieri* (Telles *et al.* 2007) but the crested newt, *Triturus cristatus*, showed no genetic bottleneck in ponds colonized only decades before (Jehle *et al.* 2001). Few individuals of the frog, *Rana ridibunda*, effectively colonized Great Britain in 1935 without a strong bottleneck effect (Zeisset & Beebee 2003). The cane toad, *Bufo marinus*, rapidly spread once introduced to Australia, showed no evidence of isolation by distance after an estimated 25-35 generations (Leblois *et al.* 2000). From these and other studies (Cushman 2006 and references therein), we can see that the genetic response to colonization in pond-breeding amphibians appears to be situational, depending on the species though studies of anurans are more numerous than those of caudates. Therefore, there is no clear pattern as to whether founding populations of pond-breeding amphibians have lower genetic variability than their source populations.

Salamanders in the family Ambystomatidae are typical pond-breeding amphibians with aquatic eggs, aquatic larvae, and terrestrial adults. However, some species also reproduce as neotenes, a sexually mature adult in the aquatic larval form (Petranka 1998). The ratio of neotenes to transformed adults could have a significant impact on gene flow in an animal that breeds in discrete ponds. Ambystomatid salamanders are generally considered site-fidelic, move only short distances (usually < 1km) from breeding ponds when not reproducing, usually breed in their natal pond, have low vagility, and move slowly across a landscape (Spear *et al.* 2005; Gamble *et al.* 2007; Zamudio & Wieczorek

2007). At the genetic level, pond-breeding amphibians are considered to exist in metapopulations and migration rates between subpopulations are low (Kinkead *et al.* 2007; Petranka 2007). Based on population genetics theory, it is reasonable to expect that founding populations of ambystomatid salamanders would possess low levels of genetic diversity characterized by low levels of gene flow among populations. In at least one amphibian species, the natterjack toad, *Bufo calamita*, low genetic variability can have adverse affects on survivorship and subsequent population viability (Rowe & Beebee 2003; 2005). A theoretical simulation showed that the number of colonists moving into unpopulated habitat would have to be considerable larger than the number of migrants moving between existing populations to reduce the amount of genetic differentiation between existing populations (Wade & McCauley 1988). Therefore, although wetland restoration efforts for ambystomatid salamanders and other pond-breeding amphibians are on-going (Lehtinen & Galatowitsch 2001; Petranka *et al.* 2007), more research is needed to determine if natural colonization processes are sufficient to develop genetically diverse and robust populations.

Mount St. Helens has become a classic study site for testing ecological theories on colonization and primary succession (Dale *et al.* 2005a). The 1980 eruption created a natural experiment that generated the conditions where colonization and recovery can be studied in concert. New ponds in the debris-avalanche zone created by the initial landslide were first colonized by two anuran species within 3 years of the eruption and *Ambystoma gracile*, the Northwestern salamander, naturally colonized these ponds 9 years post eruption (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). A typical pond-breeding amphibian, *A. gracile* has a biphasic lifestyle that includes aquatic eggs and larvae and a terrestrial adult

form. However, *A. gracile* also has a neotenic form, common in many localities. In fact, terrestrial adults are often difficult to find(Bosakowski 1999; Grialou *et al.* 2000; Hoffman *et al.* 2003; but see Aubry 2000). Although data on presence, survival, and breeding status of *A. gracile* in lakes and ponds in all zones around Mount St. Helens are available (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b), the amount of genetic variability in new ponds and the amount of gene flow across this disturbed landscape remains unknown. Based on the 3 – 4 year maturation time in this species, I estimate there has been only 5–10 generations since the eruption, not enough time for mutation to have an influence on genetic diversity. Therefore, any genetic effects should be due solely to colonization and subsequent gene flow.

I examined the genetic response of *A. gracile* to the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Using two molecular markers, microsatellites, and AFLPs (amplified fragment length polymorphisms), I measured genetic diversity, gene flow, and population structure to determine if genetic diversity is lower in newly colonized ponds. Based on the life-history characteristics of this pond-breeding amphibian, I predicted that newly colonized ponds would have less genetic diversity than reference populations. Populations consisting of descendents from eruption survivors would show intermediate levels of genetic diversity and reference sites would have the highest measures of genetic diversity. I also expected that populations at Mount St. Helens would show significant evidence of population structure because of the irregular and rugged landscape, low vagility and high philopatry, a characteristic of ambystomatid salamanders. Measuring the genetic diversity of amphibian populations affected by the eruption helps elucidate how or if genetic diversity is lost when a local population goes extinct and the habitat is later recolonized.

If newly colonized and recovery populations show a significant loss of genetic diversity, that would indicate that more than a few generations are required for a population to regain original levels of genetic diversity. Little to no loss of genetic diversity would be a positive indicator that *A. gracile* can quickly recover (within 25 years) from a major but infrequent environmental disturbance.

## Materials and Methods

### *Study site*

The impact of the 18 May 1980 eruption on the surrounding landscape was swift, violent, and dramatic. The eruption began with a landslide, followed by a searing blast that dramatically altered the local landscape. The initial debris-avalanche and blast oriented towards the north and north-east (Peterson 1986). Approximately 570 $km^2$ of forest was leveled by the blast, creating a blowdown zone, where due to the timing (snow and ice still present in the montane spring, and morning), a few plants and burrowing animals survived (Dale *et al.* 2005b). For instance, post-eruption surveys found some fish survived in 67% of the lakes within the blowdown zone (Crawford 1986). Except for approximately 5 to 25 cm of tephra fall, the landscape on the volcano's south side was relatively unaffected. Thus, several lakes on the south side have been used as reference sites to compare pre- and post-eruption effects (Wissmar *et al.* 1982; Dahm *et al.* 2005). In this study, reference populations are assumed to represent the levels of genetic diversity that would have been present across the entire area if the volcano had not erupted. Table 3.1 summarizes the study area.

*Study organism*

*Ambystoma gracile*, the northwestern salamander, has a biphasic life-cycle with terrestrial adults and aquatic larvae. However in some populations, adults do not transform but instead remain in their natal pond and upon reaching maturity, breed as gilled adults, called neotenes. Compared to most *Ambystoma*, the larvae of *A. gracile* have an extended aquatic phase (greater than 1 year) and it may take several years for adults to mature, depending on elevation and temperature (Eagleson 1976; Petranka 1998). Current Mount St. Helens populations appear to be highly neotenic, especially in the debris-avalanche zone (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). Females attach egg masses (40–270 eggs) to vegetation about 0.5–1 m below the water surface (Nussbaum *et al.* 1983; MacCracken 2007). Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*, *Oncorhynchus* spp.) prey upon adult and larval *A. gracile*, thus population densities are lower in trout-infested ponds. Rough-skinned newts (*Taricha granulosa*) also feed upon egg masses (Efford & Mathias 1969; Taylor 1983; MacCracken 2007). At metamorphosis, juvenile *A. gracile* leave the natal pond, move into the surrounding landscape and take 2–3 years to sexually mature (Eagleson 1976; Nussbaum *et al.* 1983). The life-span of a neotenic *A. gracile* is estimated to be 5 yrs (Efford & Mathias 1969). The lifespan of transformed adults is unknown but *A. macrodactylum* (long-toed salamander, a related species also found in the Pacific Northwest) can live up to 10 years (Russell *et al.* 1996). *Ambystoma macrodactylum* (spotted salamander), *A. gracile's* closest relative, can live to 32 years, although most animals from the study population were between 2 and 18 years old (Flageole & Leclair 1992).

*Population sampling*

I captured *A. gracile* May-June 2003 and July 2005 from ponds and lakes in the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSHNVM), Washington State, USA using minnow traps (set and left overnight) and dipnet (Fig. 3.1, Table 3.2). *Ambystoma gracile* were either larvae or neotenes. Collection sites (at least two per treatment) were chosen based on the probability that they would contain salamanders (Crisafulli, pers. comm.) and their accessibility within a 3 hr hike. Collection sites were assigned to treatments based on how they were affected by the eruption (Table 3.1). Maratta and Hummocks, in the debris-avalanche zone, were classified as new ponds as they did not exist prior to the eruption. Curtis, Ghost, Meta, Ryan and St. Charles Lakes in the blowdown zone where trees were toppled by the blast, were classified as recovery lakes. Goat Marsh and McBride Lakes, south of the volcano, where the impact of the eruption was minimal, were assigned as reference lakes.

In 2005, I also collected from a beaver pond, approximately 2.4 km in north of the Maratta complex. In 1997, beavers created this pond on Maratta Creek (Crisafulli, pers. comm.). Although this population is of recent origin, it was not formed by the volcano and its locality outside of the debris-avalanche precludes it from being grouped with Maratta and Hummocks. Therefore, I analyzed this pond separately to determine which of my other collection sites could be its source population. Table 3.2 provides geographic coordinates for collection sites and samples sizes.

Neither Maratta nor Hummocks are discrete lakes but instead are a collection of small ponds created by the landslide of the north slope of the volcano (debris-avalanche) during the initial stages of the eruption. Maratta is a complex of approximately 35 ponds

and the Hummocks is a complex of approximately 15 ponds within the boundary delineated by the Hummocks trail (Tr 229). I attempted to collect *A. gracile* from all localities both years except for Meta and Curtis Lakes, which were sampled only in 2003. After removing a section of tail tip, all animals were immediately released at their capture site.

*DNA extraction and amplification*

I collected tissue samples by removing approximately 1 cm of tail tip from each salamander. Each tissue was stored individually in 95% ethanol until return to the lab when samples were stored at -80º C. I isolated total genomic DNA by digesting approximately 0.5mm of tissue sample in 550µl of lysis buffer (50mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 10mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 200mM NaCl) with 11µl of Proteinase K (20 µg/ml) at 55º C followed by a modified salt-chloroform extraction and isopropanol precipitation (Mullenbach *et al.* 1989). For AFLPs, I purified DNA from this initial extraction using a Qiagen DNeasy kit starting with step 3 of Appendix A: Purification of Genomic DNA from whole or non-nucleated animal blood (DNeasy Tissue Handbook 03/2004). Incubation was followed by step 3 of Protocol: Purification of total DNA from cultured animal cells (DNeasy Tissue Handbook 03/2004). I used a Nanodrop ND-1000 Spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies, Wilmington, DE) to measure the concentration of the purified DNA and used $ddH_2O$ to standardize each sample to 50ng/µL.

***Microsatellites***: No microsatellite primers for *A. gracile* have been published. Therefore, I tested 65 primers published for other *Ambystoma.* Of those, four amplified

acceptably (Table 3.3). Details on all *Ambystoma* primers tested are in Appendix D. I used AmaD49, AmaD226 (Julian *et al.* 2003a) and AjeD23 and AjeD314 (Julian *et al.* 2003b). Each PCR was carried out in a 15μL total volume with 100ng of DNA, a final concentration of 0.5μM each primer, 0.25μM total dNTPs, and 2.0mM of $MgCl_2$. I used a PTC-200 Peltier thermal cycler (MJ Research) with the following parameters: 2 min denaturation at 94º C, 35 cycles of 1 min at 94ºC, 45 sec at 58ºC and 1.5 min at 72ºC for extension, then ending with a 5 min extension period at 72º C. PCR amplicons were separated and visualized on an ABI PRISM® 3730 DNA Analyzer by the Nevada Genomics Center, Reno, NV for all loci. I used Genemapper 3.0 (Applied Biosystems Inc.) to score each sample and rounded allele sizes to the appropriate whole number.

***AFLP*:** Because only four microsatellite primers amplified, I also used amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP), amplifying DNA using the protocols of Vos *et al*. (1995). I repeated 40 samples to calculate the error rate. Purified DNA (100ng) was digested for 1 hr at 37ºC with 5U of *Eco*RI (New England Biolabs) and 5U of *Mse*I (New England Biolabs) in 5μL of 10 RL buffer (100mM Tris-acetate, 100mM Mg-acetate, 500mM K-acetate, 50mM DTT, pH 7.5), with $ddH_2O$ to a final volume of 50μL. To the restriction digest, I added 10μL of ligation mix composed of 1μL 10X RL buffer, 5pmole each of *Eco*RI adaptor (forward and reverse) and 50pmole each of *Mse*I adaptor (forward and reverse), 1.2μL of 10mM ATP (Fisher), 1U T4 DNA ligase (5 WeissU/Ul; Fermintas) and $ddH_2O$. The ligation plus restriction digest was incubated for another 3 hrs at 37ºC.

The *A. gracile* genome is large, C-value = 42.0 pg (human C-value = 3.5 pg) (Licht & Lowcock 1991). Thus, a pre-amplification step using a 2+2 primer combination was required. Pre-amplification with a 1+1 combination (*Eco*-A and *Mse*-A) was tried but

this yielded messy results in the selective PCR with several combinations of 3+3 and 4+4 selective primers. Preamplification was performed with 3μL of undiluted ligase samples in a total volume of 50μL with 10μL 5X PCR buffer (Promega), 1.5mM $MgCl_2$, 0.2mM dNTPs (equimolar mix of all 4), 1 U Taq DNA polymerase (GoTaq Flexi, Promega) and 0.1μM each of *Eco*-AC (5'-GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CAC-3') and *Mse*-AC (5'-GAT GAG TCC TGA TGA GTA AAC-3'). The PTC-200 Peltier thermal cycler (MJ Research) parameters were 72ºC for 2 min, 94ºC for 30 sec, 58ºC for 30 sec, 72ºC for 1 min, then repeating 29 times from 94ºC. This preamplification PCR product was diluted 1:10 for selective PCR.

Three selective primer combinations were used: *Eco*-ACGC (5'-GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CAC GC-3') / *Mse*-ACAG (5'-GAT GAG TCC TGA TGA GTA AAC AG-3'), *Eco*-ACGC / *Mse*-ACAC, and *Eco*-ACGC / *Mse*-ACTC. The *Eco* primer was labeled on the 5' end with 6-FAM. Each PCR consisted of 2.5μL of diluted preamplification product, 2.0μL of 5X PCR buffer (Promega), 1.5mM $MgCl_2$, 0.2mM dNTPs (equimolar mix of all 4), 0.05uM *Eco* primer, 0.2uM *Mse* primer, 0.5U Taq DNA polymerase (GoTaq Flexi, Promega) and dd$H_2O$ to 10μL. The thermal cycler parameters were 94ºC for 2 min, then repeated 9 times: denature at 94ºC for 30 sec, anneal at 65ºC for 30 sec (reduced by 1ºC each cycle with final temperature of 57ºC), and extension at 72ºC for 1 min. Finally, there were 30 cycles of 94ºC for 30 sec, 56ºC for 30 sec, and 72ºC for 30 sec. Fragments were separated on an ABI PRISM® 3100 Genetic Analyzer by the Center for Integrated BioSystems at Utah State University, Logan, UT. After converting the sample files with the program "3730 FSA to GS converter" then

Genescan 3.7 (Applied Biosystems, Inc), I scored the gels using Genographer version 1.6 (Benham 2001).

*Within-population patterns of genetic diversity*

Data were analyzed by individual collection site and then by treatment. Basic population genetic diversity measures, including heterozygosity, number of alleles, genetic distances, and pairwise population $\Phi_{PT}$ values, for microsatellite and AFLP loci were calculated using GENALEX 6.1 (Peakall & Smouse 2006) employing the option to interpolate missing data when calculating genetic distances for the microsatellite loci.

*Among-population patterns of genetic diversity*

Due to small sample sizes ($N < 5$), animals from Ghost and Meta Lakes were excluded when testing for among-population patterns of genetic diversity. Beaver Pond was also excluded because it did not exist until 1997. To test for pairwise population differences, I used GENALEX 6.1. When comparing dominant and codominant markers, $\Phi_{PT}$ (an analogue of $F_{ST}$) is recommended by the authors (Peakall & Smouse 2006). The null hypothesis of $\Phi_{PT} = 0$ was tested using 999 permutations and significance was set at $P = 0.05$. I used analysis of molecular variation (AMOVA) for both microsatellite and AFLP data to look for genetic structure. Collection sites were grouped by treatment and for microsatellites, I used the codominate-genotypic option which uses $\Phi_{PT}$-values. For microsatellites, there were 93 animals in the new treatment (Hummocks, Maratta), 120 recovery animals (Curtis, Ryan, St. Charles Lakes) and 30 reference animals (Goat Marsh and McBride Lakes). For AFLPs, there were 99 animals in the new treatment, 132 in the recovery treatment and 31 in the reference treatment. Samples sizes differ because not all

loci amplified in all animals. Significance was tested against 9999 random permutations where a significant P value ($P < 0.05$) indicates the observed value is significantly greater than the permutation value.

I also used GENALEX 6.1 to visualize population structure by treatment for both markers, performing a principal component analysis (PCA) of genotypic distances using a standardized covariance matrix with 9999 permutations. PCA makes no prior assumptions about population structure. I used the Mantel test in Tools for Population Genetic Analysis (TFPGA) version 1.3 (Miller 1997) to test for evidence of isolation by distance. Using 999 permutations, I tested for correlation between Nei's unbiased genetic distance (Nei 1978) and a geographical distance matrix for the microsatellite and AFLP data. Geographic distance, accounting for topography (longer than point to point distances) was measured with TOPO 6.0 (DeLorme, Yarmouth, ME).

*Assignment tests*

To determine possible source populations for animals in Beaver Pond, a breeding site colonized in 1997, and to estimate contemporary levels of gene flow, I used the population assignment test in GenAlEx for the microsatellite data and AFLPOP (Duchesne & Bernatchez 2002) for AFLPs. However, the Mount St. Helens area has more lakes and ponds where salamanders could breed than could be practically sampled. Thus, these assignments only provide a general indication of gene flow. Both programs use log-likelihoods to calculate assignments, GenAlEx using the method of Paetkau *et al*. (2004). AFLPOP allocates animals of unknown origin to their most probable source population by calculating the probability of a given genotype being present in each of the possible

populations based on dominant band frequencies. The animal is then allocated to whichever possible source population that shows the highest likelihood for its genotype. I first performed the least stringent test, minimal log-likelihood difference (MLD) set to zero, which assigns animals as soon as one likelihood is higher than all others. I repeated the test and set MLD to 0.2 which corresponds to a 95% confidence level (Yang *et al.* 2008). I also increased sensitivity by setting MLD = 1 so that an animal is allocated to a population only if its largest likelihood is 10 times as high as the next largest likelihood. Calculated P values indicate the percent of likelihoods that are less than or equal to that of the likelihood of an individual animal belonging to a specific population. The lower the P value, the less likely it is that an individual is properly allocated to a population.

## Results

### *Sampling*

I captured a total of 380 *A. gracile*. The number of animals captured by year and site is found in Appendix A. All were larvae or neotenic adults. Only one larvae appeared to be reabsorbing its gills and in the process of transforming to a terrestrial adult. *Ambystoma gracile* were abundant across the study area except for the two reference lakes, Goat Marsh and McBride Lake where animals were only found in 2005, and Ghost and Meta Lakes (Table 3.2). I also set traps in Strawberry Lake in 2005 (46°19.64N/122° 3.21W) and although *Taricha granulosa* were easily captured by dip net and minnow trap, I did not find any *A. gracile*. These collection sites with few or no *A. gracile* were populated by enough trout to attract fly fishermen (pers. obs) and in Ghost Lake, my traps filled with a large number of crayfish.

*Within-population levels of genetic diversity*

The microsatellite genotyped animals showed high levels of polymorphism and genetic diversity (Tables 3.3, 3.4; Appendix B). Observed heterozygosity ranged from 0.668 at McBride Lake to 0.917 at Ghost Lake. By treatment, recovery populations had the highest observed heterozygosity, 0.844 and reference lakes had the lowest at 0.711 (Table 3.5). Aje D23 was not in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) at Maratta ($P = 0.029$) and Ryan Lake ($P < 0.001$). AjeD314 was not in HWE at Beaver Pond ($P = 0.033$), Curtis ($P=0.004$), Ryan ($P = 0.001$), Hummocks, Maratta, McBride, and St Charles Lakes ($P < 0.001$). AmaD226 was not in HWE at McBride and St. Charles Lakes ($P = 0.030$) and AmaD49 was not in HWE at Beaver Pond ($P = 0.036$) or Maratta ($P < 0.001$).

AFLP analysis yielded 81 polymorphic loci from 269 animals (Table 3.6). *Eco*-ACGC / *Mse*-ACAG combination yielded 32 bands, *Eco*-ACGC / *Mse*-ACAC combination yielded 25 bands, and *Eco*-ACGC / *Mse*-ACTC combination yielded 24 bands. The methodological error rate was estimated to be 0.57% from the included replicates. Estimated heterozygosities ($H_A$) ranged from 0.161 (Meta Lake) to 0.291 (Hummocks and Goat Marsh; Table 3.5). The low $H_A$ value for Meta and Ghost Lake are a product of low sample sizes. Removing those two sites yields a mean $H_A$ of 0.251. Despite its recent origin (1997), inspection of microsatellite and AFLP data shows nothing unusual about the animals collected from the Beaver Pond. Heterozygosities and the percent of polymorphic loci are within the ranges of the other collection sites (Tables 3.4, 3.6).

*Among-population patterns of genetic diversity*

Microsatellite and AFLP data show that *A. gracile* at MSHNVM had high levels of gene flow and low levels of genetic structure, either by collection site or by treatment. With microsatellites, observed heterozygosity was highest in the recovery treatment and almost equal at new and reference sites. AFLP data showed that average heterozygosity was highest (0.298) in the new treatment and lowest in the recovery treatment (0.272; Table 3.5). Pairwise $\Phi_{ST}$ values for microsatellites and AFLP's are small (Table 3.7) ranging from 0.000 to 0.069 for microsatellites and 0.015 to 0.132 for AFLPs. Analysis of molecular variation (AMOVA) for microsatellite markers showed that 96% of the variance was found within populations (P = 0.001; Table 3.8) and for AFLPs, the amount of variance within populations was 90% (P = 0.001; Table 3.8). There was some evidence of isolation by distance by collection site only in the AFLP data (r = 0.7378, Z = 8.87, P = 0.0015) but not in the microsatellite data (r = 0.1873, Z= 84.8, P = 0.1559, Figure 3.2), likely due to the high scatter. However, PCA of the microsatellite data showed extensive overlap between treatments (Figure 3.3) indicating low levels of genetic structure. PC axis 1 explains 21.2% of the variation, axis 2 explains 20.1% and axis 3 explains 16.3% for a cumulative total of 57.4%. Similarly, with AFLPs, PCA analysis showed overlap between treatments (Figure 3.3). A plot of PC2 versus PC3 (not shown) has no pattern or grouping by treatment; many data points fell upon each other. Axis 1 explains 28.3% of the variation, axis 2 explains 16.5% and axis 3 explains 14.5% for a cumulative total of 59.4%. PC axis one most likely represents distance between ponds. I expected that treatments would be more likely to group than if collection sites and treatments were randomly located on the landscape, simply because when collection sites were grouped by

treatment, they were closer to each other than collection sites in the other treatments. Therefore, the overlap between treatments was even more surprising.

*Assignment tests*

Salamanders from the Beaver Pond did not have a clear signal indicating their origin but both markers indicated that Maratta and Hummocks were the most likely source populations, a reasonable result as those localities are only 2.37 km and 3.80 km away from Beaver Pond, respectively. The microsatellite data showed that of the 23 Beaver Pond animals, 13 were assigned to new ponds, 3 to Hummocks and 10 to Maratta. Surprisingly, there were 6 animals assigned to recovery lakes (3 to Curtis, 2 to Ryan and 1 to St Charles) and 4 to reference lakes (2 each to Goat Marsh and McBride). Under the least stringent conditions for assigning AFLP genotypes to a putative source population, Beaver Pond animals clearly originated from either Maratta (13 of 23; P = 0.1724 – 0.8576) or Hummocks (9 of 23; P = 0.0768 – 0.4436). One animal was assigned to Hummocks but with only a 0.8% probability so it did not assign well to any population. With MLD = 0.2, 2 animals were not allocated to any population (P = 0.001 – 0.7200), 12 were allocated to Maratta (P = 0.1622 – 0.8567), and 8 to Hummocks (P = 0.0514 – 0.4436). One animal was assigned to Hummocks but with only a 0.8% probability so it did not assign well but yet, did not meet the criteria to be unassigned. With MLD = 1, 16 animals were not allocated to any population (P = 0.1166 – 0.4886), 5 were allocated to Maratta (P = 0.1360 – 0.8600), and 2 to Hummocks (P = 0.1360 – 0.2420).

# Discussion

In general, pond-breeding amphibians are thought to be slow dispersers with low vagility (Duellman & Trueb 1986; Blaustein *et al.* 1994). Additionally, the apparent preponderance of neotenes captured in breeding ponds would lead to expectations of low gene flow. Given large source populations (mostly likely in the forests surrounding Mount St. Helens), *A. gracile* was resilient in the face of a large infrequent environmental disturbance. High levels of gene flow and no loss of genetic variability in new populations was an unexpected result. However, Titus & Gaines (1991) compared gene flow of *A. gracile* in coastal populations composed of transformed adults with montane populations composed of neotenic adults using allozyme markers. They were surprised to find high levels of gene flow ($F_{ST}$ = 0.006, coastal populations; $F_{ST}$ = 0.010, montane populations) and proposed three hypotheses to explain their results. Their first hypothesis (and the only relevant one here) is that metamorphosis and dispersal may be more common than thought. This is congruent with the genetic evidence from Mount St. Helens. Initial colonization of the new ponds formed by the debris-avalanche could only occur through terrestrial adults. Even though subsequent conditions in the new and recovery areas would seemingly favor neotenes (Sprules 1974a), low levels of population structure strongly indicate that there are substantial numbers of terrestrial adults moving across the landscape at Mount St. Helens. Sprules (1974b) demonstrated that *A. gracile* populations could include individuals that always metamorphose, regardless of environmental conditions, those that are always neotenic and finally, those that may or may not transform, depending on environmental cues. Because colonizers at Mount St.

Helens, could only come from unaffected forest areas surrounding the affected area and blowdown zone survivors, my results agree with Sprules (1974a,b) in that variation in reproductive mode contributes to colonization and survival.

Little is known of the terrestrial ecology and behavior of *A. gracile* except that they are fossorial, rarely seen, and make extensive use of rodent burrows (Nussbaum *et al.* 1983). It is likely that dispersing *A. gracile* used Northern pocket gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*) burrows as refuges. Many individuals of this fossorial herbivore survived the blast and significantly promoted recovery of the plant community due to their burrowing activities (Andersen & MacMahon 1985). My and the allozyme data of Titus (1990) suggest that *A. gracile* may not be philopatric to their natal or breeding pond, interesting in that *A. maculatum*, sister taxon to *A. gracile*, is highly philopatric (Shaffer *et al.* 1991; Semlitsch 1998). Kinkead *et al.* (2007) studied, using AFLPs and mark-recapture methods, *Ambystoma talpoideum* and *A. maculatum* and expected to find population structure in their breeding populations because only 6 animals were detected moving between ponds (142 m maximum distance) during a 3-year period. However, the genetic data showed no evidence of population structure, even over distances of approximately 25 km. The results of my study, coupled with that of Kinkead *et al.* (2007) indicate that we still do not fully understand migration and dispersal (as defined by Semlitsch 2008) in ambystomatid salamanders.

High levels of heterozygosity and low $F_{ST}$ values strongly indicate that, in the Mount St. Helens area, *A. gracile* appear to comprise a large, panmictic population. Unlike many other pond-breeding amphibians (Gamble *et al.* 2007), including most *Ambystoma*, these populations are not acting as a metapopulation at the scale of my study.

Instead, *A. gracile* populations around Mount St. Helens can be characterized as a single, large patchy population (Roslin 2001; Bradford *et al.* 2003). While is difficult to discern why pond-breeding amphibians move from favorable to apparently unfavorable habitats, there is evidence that some species are able to assess the condition of the breeding pond at oviposition time and if not adequate, due to factors such as the presence of predators or competitors, can switch to a different breeding site (Semlitsch 1998; Petranka *et al.* 2004).

Dispersal capability certainly plays a large role in determining the level of population structure and the amount of gene flow. At Mount St. Helens, Crisafulli *et al.* (2005b) report that some recently metamorphosed *A. gracile* dispersed at least 3.2 km in the blowdown zone, traveling over a steep valley wall, over a ridge, into the next drainage. In the Pumice Plain, a barren "moonscape," an individual salamander dispersed 3.0 km. The closest known source populations for the ponds in the debris-avalanche zone were 3.7 km away. If the colonization of the new ponds at Mount St. Helens is considered a process similar to that of an invasive species colonizing new habitat, my results suggest colonization by large numbers of animals. This may be a similar process to that of introduced *Anolis* lizards from around the Caribbean region into Florida where admixture contributed to increased genetic variation in introduced populations as compared to source populations (Kolbe *et al.* 2004; 2007). Although long distance migration of amphibians is difficult to study and thus may be underestimated for many species (Marsh & Trenham 2001), direct observation by Crisafulli *et al*. (2005b) and my genetic data show that *A. gracile* are capable of and do engage in long-distance movements.

High gene flow can also be evidence of population expansion (Newman & Squire 2001). If that were the case at Mount St. Helens, I would expect to see differences in the measures of genetic diversity, especially with respect to reference populations, unless the expansion is over a larger area than my study area. However, I consider this unlikely. First, this species was present in and around Mount St. Helens prior to the eruption. Second, populations of *A. gracile* do not appear to be declining or expanding and current distribution appears to resemble their historical range (Shaffer 2005), although demographic data on any salamander are limited. Another study, perhaps in another 20 years or so, may be warranted to ensure I have not recorded a transient response to the disturbance.

This study leads to another question: Why has *A. gracile* successfully colonized new ponds and is seemingly successful in blowdown areas while *Ambystoma macrodactylum* (long-toed salamander) has not? This species was assumed present in the area and reported to be breeding in Elk and St. Charles Lake within 3 years post eruption (Karlstrom 1986; Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). However, I did not find any during my collecting. *Ambystoma macrodactylum* is considered a relatively common salamander, breeds earlier than *A. gracile*, and does not have a neotenic form (Petranka 1998). There is evidence that *A. macrodactylum* is capable of dispersal and migration. In rugged terrain, *A. macrodactylum* showed no isolation by distance in the eight populations sampled in northeastern Oregon and western Idaho and there was more variability within populations than between populations (Howard & Wallace 1981). In the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho and Montana, *A. macrodacylum* showed substantial levels of genetic variation and was panmictic within basins with evidence for some gene flow on a

regional scale (Tallmon *et al.* 2000). Low altitude sites (< 1200 m) had more gene flow between them than among high altitude sites ( > 1200 m) or between high and low altitude sites (Giordano *et al.* 2007). Perhaps there were far fewer *A. macrodactylum* than *A. gracile* in the Mount St. Helens area pre-eruption and therefore few animals available for colonization post-eruption (Dvornich *et al.* 1997). Although both species are common in nearby Mount Rainer National Park, they differ in breeding site preferences and large *A. gracile* larvae are capable of preying upon smaller *A. macrodactylum* larvae (Hoffman *et al.* 2003).

Amphibian colonization at Mount St. Helens appears to follow a pattern similar to that of other amphibian communities: anurans first, then pond-breeding salamanders. Four species of anuran colonized the Maratta wetlands complex in the debris-avalanche zone (new ponds) before the first salamander, *A. gracile* arrived (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). Anurans and salamanders easily colonized constructed ponds within a year in a North Carolina site with multiple source ponds nearby (Petranka *et al.* 2003). In a sand prairie habitat in Indiana, seven of nine anurans colonized restored areas in one year while tiger salamanders (*A. tigrinum*) took five years (Brodman *et al.* 2006). Wildfire in Glacier National Park in Montana did not negatively affect populations of *A. macrodactylum* and the Columbia spotted frog, *Rana luteiventris*, while the western toad, *Bufo boreas* colonized fire affected areas (Hossack & Corn 2007). Nine of nine anuran species colonized restored wetlands in Minnesota while only one of three salamander species was able to do so (Lehtinen & Galatowitsch 2001). In Great Britain, the two anuran species (*Bufo bufo* and *Rana temporaria*) more readily colonized newly constructed ponds than two newt species (*Triturus cristatus* and *Triturus vulgaris*) because newts were unable to

colonize new ponds found greater than 400m from existing ones (Baker & Halliday 1999). In South Carolina, some anuran species colonized new ponds (built to mitigate loss of wetlands) within a year and successfully reproduced while successful salamander reproduction took three years (Pechmann *et al.* 2001). As Petranka *et al.* (2004) noted, time is an important variable when determining the success of a colonization event. With respect to ambystomatid salamanders, colonization can take up to a decade and even if animals are observed in a breeding pond the first year, it can take 3-5 years for salamanders to mature (Petranka 1998). Therefore, colonization studies (usually conducted with respect to evaluating a habitat restoration event) must be cognizant of these time scales.

The effects of disturbance and habitat fragmentation on pond-breeding amphibians are complex. Traditionally, pond-breeding amphibians were thought to exist in metapopulations and generally did not move extensively across the landscape, although this assumption has been questioned several times (Marsh & Trenham 2001; Jehle *et al.* 2005; Cushman 2006). This study shows that *A. gracile* are resilient in the face of a major environmental disturbance. Their ability to colonize new ponds set in an seemingly inhospitable matrix is surprising, more so when it appears to have been done by a large number of individuals, either in a single pulse, or more likely, multiple times. Clearly, predicting dispersal and colonization ability based on the broad category of pond-breeding amphibian is not always reliable. Additionally, dispersal ability of the same species may be different across a continuous versus fragmented habitat; some animals, while poor dispersers in a continuous landscape, may be good dispersers through/across fragments (Marsh *et al.* 2004). Regardless of cause, the ability of *A. gracile* to colonize

the new ponds (and most likely recovery areas as well) is an encouraging result. Not all is doom and gloom in the amphibian conservation world. Future studies of amphibian colonization studies should emphasize the response of individual species at multiple scales of time and space.

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Table 3.1. Effects of 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens on the local landscape (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005a; Swanson & Major 2005). The eruption also generated mudflows but these were localized to drainages and are not under consideration.

| Zone | Caused by | Characterized by | Created | Survivors | Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debris-Avalanche | Collapse and landslide of volcano's north slope. | Hummocks/hills of rock. Covering of landscape by rock to 195m. | A clean slate with new lakes and ponds nonexistent prior to the eruption. | None | New |
| Blow down | High pressure blast, Air temps to 300ºC**.** High velocity rock and tephra moving across landscape. | Blowdown of trees, heating of lakes/ponds, heavy levels of ash and organic material into lakes/ponds. | Complex mosaic of disturbance dependent upon topography and distance from volcano. | Some (fossorial animals, fish, *T. granulosa*, *A. gracile*, underground plant parts) | Recovery |
| Reference | South of volcano. Not in direct path of eruptive forces. | Life as normal. Some ash/tephra fall. | No major effects. | Probably 100% | Reference |

Table 3.2. Total collection of A. *gracile* by zone and treatment (Trmt) in and around the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSHNVM). The two letters under code are abbreviations for each collection site. Debris-Avalanche (DA), Recovery (REC), Reference (REF). Latitude, longitude, and elevation were measured with a handheld GPS. Pond designators (e.g. M5) in Maratta and Hummocks are from Crisafulli (pers.comm) and NR indicates not recorded.

| | Code | Zone | Trmt | N | Lat (N) (deg. min) | Long (W) (deg. min) | Elevation (m) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maratta | MA | DA | NEW | | | | |
| M5 | | | | 3 | 46 17.48 | 122 16.98 | 730.8 |
| M6 | | | | 36 | 46 17.47 | 122 16.97 | 749.8 |
| M27 | | | | 4 | 46 17.54 | 122 17.05 | 725.2 |
| M28 | | | | 2 | NR | | |
| M30 | | | | 32 | 46 17.52 | 122 16.98 | 744.3 |
| Hummocks | HU | DA | NEW | | | | |
| H1 | | | | 2 | 46 17.05 | 122 16.15 | 758.2 |
| H6* | | | | 78 | 46 16.77 | 122 16.15 | 763.7 |
| H23 | | | | 21 | 46 16.81 | 122 16.22 | 765.2 |
| H25 | | | | 9 | 46 16.85 | 122 16.12 | 762.5 |
| H26 | | | | 2 | 46 16.91 | 122 16.28 | 745.5 |
| Beaver Pond | BP | REC | N/A | 25 | 46 18.76 | 122 12.21 | 939.7 |
| Curtis Lake | CU | REC | REC | 27 | 46 16.85 | 122 03.00 | 1107.7 |
| Ghost Lake | GH | REC | REC | 4 | 46 19.17 | 122 03.68 | 1154.2 |
| Meta Lake | ME | REC | REC | 4 | 46 19.64 | 122 03.21 | 1456.0 |
| Ryan Lake | RY | REC | REC | 32 | 46 21.17 | 122 03.70 | 1015.4 |
| St Charles Lake | SC | REC | REC | 69 | 46 19.34 | 122 05.23 | 1223.4 |
| Goat Marsh Lake | GM | REF | REF | 16 | 46 08.42 | 122 16.72 | 889.8 |
| McBride Lake | MB | REF | REF | 14 | 46 08.44 | 122 15.11 | 830.7 |

* I captured many more animals at this site, but collected tissue samples from 78.

Table 3.3. PCR conditions and basic data on four microsatellite loci used in *A. gracile* from MSHNVM. Number genotyped per locus (N), number of alleles (A), observed heterozygosity ($H_O$), expected heterozygosity ($H_E$), and number of migrants (Nm) based on $F_{ST}$ values (Nm)averaged over all collection sites except for Beaver Pond.

| Locus | N | Dye | Size range (base pairs) | A | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $F_{ST}$ | $F_{IS}$ | Nm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aje D23 | 245 | VIC | 206–280 | 19 | 0.824 | 0.866 | 0.044 | 0.049 | 5.42 |
| Aje D314 | 225 | 6-FAM | 164–300 | 69 | 0.673 | 0.898 | 0.076 | 0.251 | 3.05 |
| Ama D226 | 241 | 6-FAM | 228–370 | 32 | 0.862 | 0.880 | 0.054 | 0.020 | 4.34 |
| Ama D49 | 211 | NED | 151–280 | 41 | 0.884 | 0.892 | 0.060 | 0.009 | 3.89 |

Table 3.4. Measures of genetic diversity for all collection sites at MSHNVM by microsatellite locus. Number genotyped (N), number of alleles (A), effective number of alleles ($N_E$), observed heterozygosity ($H_O$), expected heterozygosity ($H_E$). Over all collection sites and loci, $F_{ST}$ = 0.057, $F_{IS}$ = 0.084, and Nm = 4.3.

| | | Aje D23 | Aje D314 | Ama D226 | Ama D49 | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HU | N | 68 | 67 | 69 | 61 | |
| | A | 13 | 29 | 17 | 25 | |
| | $N_E$ | 7.88 | 8.37 | 6.45 | 14.12 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.853 | 0.582 | 0.812 | 0.820 | 0.767 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.873 | 0.880 | 0.845 | 0.929 | 0.882 |
| MA | N | 47 | 36 | 43 | 48 | |
| | A | 13 | 28 | 15 | 26 | |
| | $N_E$ | 8.84 | 18.38 | 9.39 | 17.07 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.787 | 0.694 | 0.837 | 0.792 | 0.778 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.887 | 0.946 | 0.893 | 0.941 | 0.917 |
| CU | N | 23 | 22 | 24 | 13 | |
| | A | 12 | 25 | 20 | 19 | |
| | $N_E$ | 9.12 | 17.93 | 11.64 | 16.90 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.913 | 0.773 | 0.875 | 0.923 | 0.871 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.890 | 0.944 | 0.914 | 0.941 | 0.922 |
| GH | N | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | |
| | A | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | |
| | $N_E$ | 5.33 | 4.50 | 6.40 | 4.50 | |
| | $H_O$ | 1.000 | 0.667 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.917 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.813 | 0.778 | 0.844 | 0.778 | 0.803 |
| ME | N | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | |
| | A | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | |
| | $N_E$ | 5.33 | 6.00 | 4.50 | 4.57 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.750 | 1.000 | 0.667 | 1.000 | 0.854 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.813 | 0.833 | 0.778 | 0.781 | 0.801 |
| RY | N | 25 | 25 | 25 | 17 | |
| | A | 17 | 28 | 20 | 18 | |
| | $N_E$ | 11.68 | 20.83 | 15.63 | 13.44 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.800 | 0.680 | 0.880 | 0.941 | 0.825 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.914 | 0.952 | 0.936 | 0.926 | 0.932 |
| SC | N | 44 | 42 | 43 | 40 | |
| | A | 12 | 26 | 21 | 27 | |
| | $N_E$ | 8.82 | 14.58 | 13.80 | 17.49 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.909 | 0.738 | 0.884 | 0.850 | 0.845 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.887 | 0.931 | 0.928 | 0.943 | 0.922 |
| GM | N | 14 | 11 | 14 | 10 | |
| | A | 10 | 14 | 15 | 13 | |
| | $N_E$ | 6.64 | 11.00 | 10.05 | 10.00 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.714 | 0.545 | 0.929 | 0.900 | 0.772 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.849 | 0.909 | 0.901 | 0.900 | 0.890 |
| MB | N | 16 | 16 | 16 | 15 | |
| | A | 10 | 15 | 13 | 12 | |
| | $N_E$ | 7.64 | 11.13 | 8.39 | 9.38 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.688 | 0.375 | 0.875 | 0.733 | 0.668 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.869 | 0.910 | 0.881 | 0.893 | 0.888 |
| BP | N | 22 | 22 | 21 | 16 | |
| | A | 11 | 18 | 19 | 17 | |
| | $N_E$ | 8.49 | 13.08 | 12.42 | 13.13 | |
| | $H_O$ | 0.818 | 0.591 | 1.000 | 0.875 | 0.821 |
| | $H_E$ | 0.882 | 0.924 | 0.920 | 0.924 | 0.912 |

Table 3.5. Measures of genetic diversity by treatment at MSHNVM by microsatellite and AFLP loci. Number genotyped (N), number of alleles averaged over loci (A), effective number of alleles (Ne), observed heterozygosity ($H_O$), expected heterozygosity ($H_E$), average heterozygosity ($H_A$) for AFLP, Fixation index (F) for microsatellite data, and percent of polymorphic loci (%P) for AFLPs. Over all treatments and loci, $F_{ST}$ = 0.017, $F_{IS}$ = 0.156, and Nm = 16.5 for microsatellite data. $H_A$ over all treatments and AFLP loci = 0.284.

| Trmt | N | A | Ne | $H_O$ | $H_E$ / $H_A$ | F / %P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Microsatellite | | | | | | |
| New | 93 | 31.5 | 18.2 | 0.769 | 0.910 | 0.154 |
| Recovery | 120 | 27.0 | 12.1 | 0.844 | 0.939 | 0.100 |
| Reference | 30 | 18.0 | 12.2 | 0.711 | 0.912 | 0.217 |
| AFLP | | | | | | |
| New | 132 | 2.0 | - | - | 0.298 | 100.0 |
| Recovery | 99 | 1.9 | - | - | 0.272 | 93.4 |
| Reference | 31 | 1.9 | - | - | 0.283 | 93.4 |

Table 3.6. Measures of genetic diversity for all collection sites at MSHNVM based on 81 AFLP loci. Number genotyped (N), number of bands (NB), average heterozygosity ($H_A$), standard error of estimated heterozygosity (SE), Percent Polymorphic (%P). Codes are as in Table 3.1.

| Code | N | NB | $H_A$ | SE | % P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HU | 70 | 76 | 0.291 | 0.019 | 92.59 |
| MA | 62 | 80 | 0.293 | 0.016 | 98.77 |
| CU | 25 | 76 | 0.261 | 0.019 | 88.89 |
| GH | 4 | 55 | 0.191 | 0.023 | 50.62 |
| ME | 4 | 58 | 0.161 | 0.022 | 44.44 |
| RY | 26 | 67 | 0.262 | 0.020 | 86.42 |
| SC | 48 | 74 | 0.266 | 0.021 | 87.65 |
| GM | 15 | 73 | 0.291 | 0.019 | 88.89 |
| MB | 16 | 72 | 0.250 | 0.020 | 83.95 |
| BP | 23 | 73 | 0.277 | 0.019 | 87.65 |

Table 3.7. Pairwise population $\Phi_{PT}$ values (below diagonal) for microsatellites (top number of pair) and AFLPs (bottom number of pair). $\Phi_{PT}$ values are functionally equivalent to $F_{ST}$ and can be directly compared between microsatellites and AFLPs. Negative $\Phi_{PT}$ values were converted to zero. P values are above the diagonal and non-significant values are in bold.

| | Curtis | Ryan | St Charles | Hummocks | Maratta | Goat Marsh | McBride |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Curtis | | **0.392** | **0.463** | 0.001 | 0.001 | **0.191** | 0.034 |
| | | 0.002 | 0.013 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| Ryan | 0.001 | | 0.013 | 0.001 | 0.001 | **0.142** | 0.011 |
| | 0.029 | | 0.008 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| St Charles | 0.000 | 0.013 | | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.043 | 0.001 |
| | 0.015 | 0.015 | | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| Hummocks | 0.044 | 0.062 | 0.047 | | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| | 0.088 | 0.086 | 0.132 | | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| Maratta | 0.023 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.042 | | 0.016 | 0.001 |
| | 0.077 | 0.067 | 0.120 | 0.050 | | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| Goat Marsh | 0.008 | 0.009 | 0.015 | 0.056 | 0.020 | | **0.219** |
| | 0.052 | 0.063 | 0.075 | 0.086 | 0.062 | | **0.054** |
| McBride | 0.018 | 0.019 | 0.033 | 0.069 | 0.031 | 0.009 | |
| | 0.094 | 0.107 | 0.114 | 0.120 | 0.091 | 0.019 | |

Table 3.8. Results of hierarchical AMOVA comparing genetic variation among the three treatments (new, recovery, reference), among collection sites within treatments and among collection sites for microsatellites and AFLPs.

| Source of variation | df | SS | MS | Est. Var. | % | Statistic | Value | Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Microsatellites** | | | | | | | | |
| Among Trmt | 2 | 24.751 | 12.376 | 0.070 | 2% | $\Phi_{RT}$ | 0.016 | 0.0001 |
| Among Pops/Trmt | 4 | 29.564 | 7.391 | 0.096 | 2% | $\Phi_{PR}$ | 0.022 | 0.0001 |
| Within Pops | 236 | 994.509 | 4.214 | 4.214 | 96% | $\Phi_{PT}$ | 0.038 | 0.0001 |
| Total | 242 | 1048.824 | 23.981 | 4.380 | | | | |
| **AFLP** | | | | | | | | |
| Among Trmt | 2 | 196.527 | 98.264 | 0.930 | 7% | $\Phi_{RT}$ | 0.069 | 0.0001 |
| Among Pops/Trmt | 4 | 107.999 | 27.000 | 0.414 | 3% | $\Phi_{PR}$ | 0.033 | 0.0001 |
| Within Pops | 255 | 3091.958 | 12.125 | 12.125 | 90% | $\Phi_{PT}$ | 0.100 | 0.0001 |
| Total | 261 | 3396.485 | 137.389 | 13.469 | | | | |

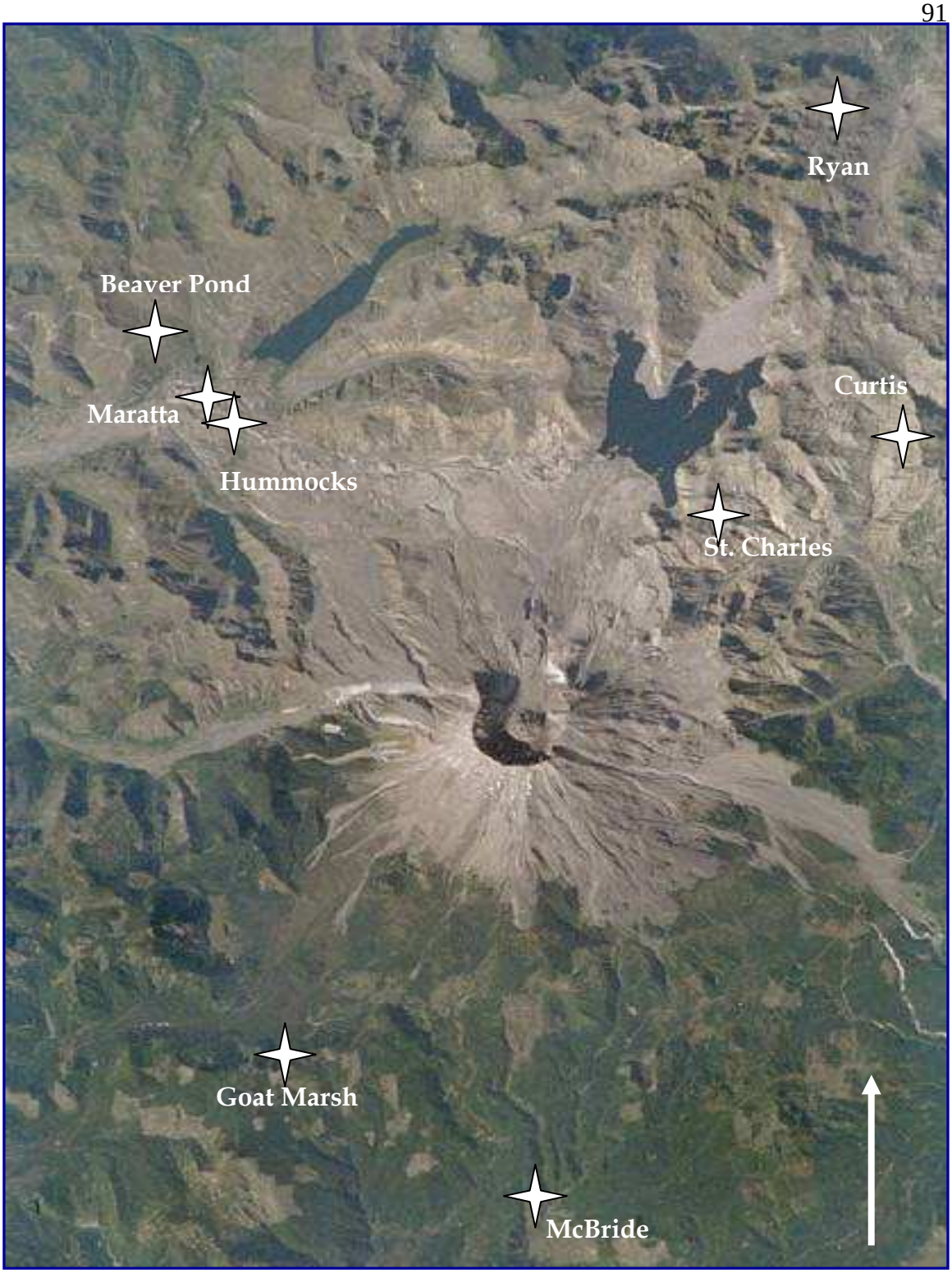


Figure 3.1. Collection sites at MSHNVM. White arrow points north. New ponds are Maratta and Hummocks in the debris-avalanche zone, recovery lakes are St. Charles and Ryan and Curtis Lakes in the blowdown-zone, and reference lakes are Goat Marsh and McBride Lakes. Linear distance between Ryan and McBride Lake is 28.04 km.

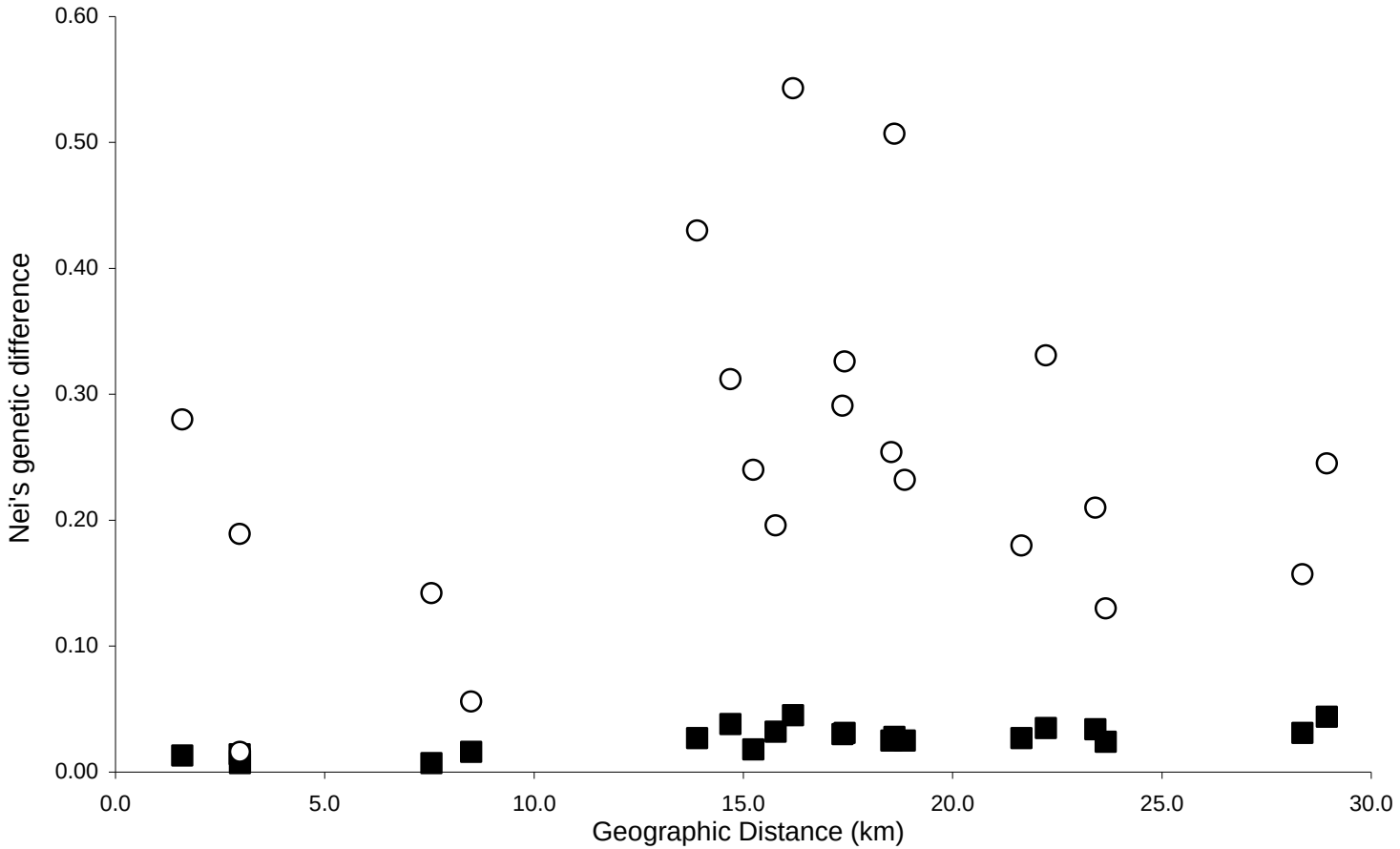


Figure 3.2. Geographic distance versus Nei's unbiased genetic distance in *A. gracile* at MSHNVM. Open circles indicates microsatellites (no isolation by distance, r = 0.1873, P = 0.1559) and solid squares indicate AFLPs (significant isolation by distance, r = 0.7378, P = 0.0015). See appendix C for a distance table (geographic and Nei's).

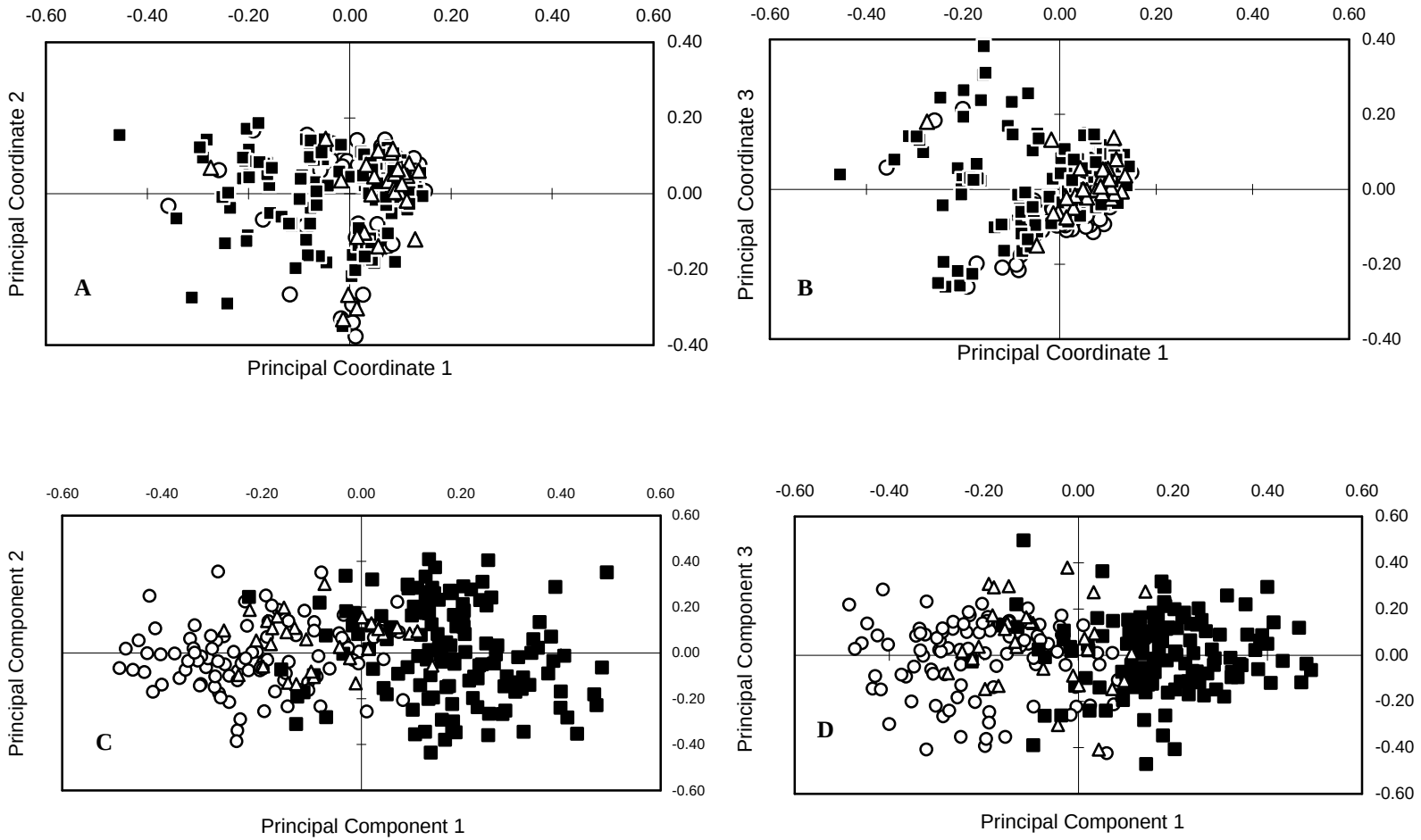


Figure 3.3. Principal component analysis for microsatellite (A,B) and AFLPs (C, D) for *A. gracile* at MSHNVM. New populations are indicated by a filled square, recovery populations by an open circle and reference populations by an open triangle.

# CHAPTER 4

# CONCLUSIONS

The goal of this study was to measure the population genetic response of two common amphibians, *Taricha granulosa* (rough-skinned newt) and *Ambystoma gracile* (northwestern salamander) to the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Understanding how measures of genetic diversity, gene flow, and population structure may be affected by a major environmental disturbance is important in improving our knowledge of colonization. Colonization rates and the order that plant and animal species established themselves at Mount St. Helens was more complex that present ecological theory could explain. Instead of following a clear pattern, colonization and recovery was species and situation specific (Franklin *et al.* 1985; Crisafulli *et al.* 2005b). For the purposes of my study, the eruption created a mosaic of landscape alterations that could be assigned into three treatments, which were new, recovery and reference. I predicted that in both species, populations in recently colonized habitats (composed of immigrants only), would have less genetic variation than populations from recovery area (survivors/their descendants and immigrants), or reference populations (assumed to be unimpacted by the eruption). This prediction was based on the supposition that new populations would have been colonized by few individuals and that migration rates were low. The data did not support my predictions. In newts, there were no significant differences in six measures of genetic diversity among treatments (Table 2.6). Results were similar in *A. gracile* (Table 3.6). With microsatellite markers, the observed heterozygosity of the reference lakes was lower than either new or recovering populations and with AFLPs, newly colonized

populations had a higher average heterozygosity than either of the other two treatments (Table 3.6).

The results for both species can be explained through the surprisingly high levels of gene flow, despite the rugged terrain. Gene flow, the movement of genetic material from one area to another, reduces or eliminates genetic differences among populations (Petranka 2007). Those amphibian species with higher vagility may be more adversely affected by habitat fragmentation than those that are site fidelic (Cushman 2006) because they require larger areas of suitable habitat. Additionally, habitat change may be the be the biggest threat to amphibian conservation (Gardner *et al.* 2007). Thus, the rapid recovery and minimal loss of genetic variability in colonizing populations in both these species is good news.

High gene flow can result from large numbers of animals moving across the landscape or through multiple waves of colonization. A review of *T. granulosa* activity patterns (Chapter 2, discussion) show that they are well suited to move across open areas and may in fact prefer moving across them. For both species, burrows created by northern pocket gophers (*Thomomys talpoides)* or other fossorial mammals may have created suitable refuges for salamanders unable to move during hot and dry periods (MacMahon *et al.* 1989). Interestingly, although the gophers were found within the blast zone less than a year post eruption (Andersen & MacMahon 1985), they took 12 years to colonize the debris-avalanche zone (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005a). *Ambystoma gracile* took 9 years and *T. granulosa* took 10 years (Crisafulli *et al.* 2005c). It is possible that salamander migration rates were limited by the dispersal rates of fossorial mammals because it is likely that salamanders used their burrows as refuges. Additionally, female newts mate with

multiple males (2-5) and offspring from a single clutch may have multiple fathers (Jones *et al.* 2002). While no one has tested for multiple paternity in the *A. gracile*, it is found in other species of *Ambystoma* including *A. tigrinum*, *A. maculatum*, and *A. talpoideum* (Tennessen & Zamudio 2003; Myers & Zamudio 2004; Gopurenko *et al.* 2006; Whiteman *et al.* 2006).

Genetic studies of two sympatric species can highlight how differences in life-history strategies affect gene flow and population substructure. Often, there is a key difference between species that the researchers wish to highlight. For example, comparing a specialist or generalist (Brouat *et al.* 2003), differences in dispersal ability (Tibbets & Dowling 1996; Miller *et al.* 2002; Hoehn *et al.* 2007), social structure (Brouat *et al.* 2007) or several life-history variables (Kraaijeveld-Smit *et al.* 2007). Such was the intent with this study. Efford and Mathias' (1969) study of *T. granulosa* and *A. gracile* in the same lake concluded that the two species differ greatly in their population dynamics; *T. granulosa* with low adult recruitment, and long life, and *A. gracile* with a high reproductive and growth rate and a short life span. I expected *T. granulosa* to be less philopatric to their breeding site than *A. gracile* because there was some evidence they were capable of high gene flow. Ambystomatid salamanders are generalized (although this view is being questioned (Trenham 1998; Smith & Green 2005) as highly philopatric and there was little evidence to suspect that *A. gracile* was any different. Additionally, the population of *A. gracile* at Mount St. Helens appears to be characterized by a high level of neoteny. Neotenes are not physiologically capable of moving across the terrestrial landscape because they breathe with gills. Therefore, gene flow in *T. granulosa* should be higher than *A. gracile*. Comparing sites where both animals were collected,

gene flow levels are comparable (Table 2.7, 3.7). Additionally, neither species showed evidence for population structure or isolation by distance (Figures 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3). Perhaps neoteny is not a response to a harsh terrestrial environment as suggested by Sprules (1974) or there are more terrestrial *A. gracile* moving across the landscape than originally thought. Neotenes and terrestrial forms are capable of interbreeding in many species of *Ambystoma* including *A. gracile* (Knudsen 1960; Semlitsch 1985; Licht & Sever 1991; Whiteman *et al.* 2006). Neoteny should not restrict the reproductive output of the species and gene flow can be maintained by terrestrial adults.

Finally, this study shows that the generalities encompassed in the term "pond-breeding amphibian" does not serve as good predictor variables in predicting a response to an environmental disturbance. The term pond-breeding amphibian implies high site fidelity and low vagility, resulting in low gene flow and genetic differences in subpopulations. Populations of pond breeding amphibians are often automatically classified as existing in a metapopulation type structure, an assumption not always correct or tested for (Marsh & Trenham 2001). *Taricha granulosa* and *A. gracile*, while they do breed in ponds, have shown the opposite pattern. At Mount St. Helens, populations are characterized by high gene flow which results in low population structure. Therefore, researchers should use the term pond-breeding amphibian carefully as the mental image and stereotype the term invokes is not universally applicable.

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# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX A

## COLLECTIONS BY LOCALITY AND YEAR

Table A.1. Collections by location and year of *Taricha granulosa* and *Ambystoma gracile* at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. NS indicates not sampled.

| | Hummocks | | | | | | | Maratta | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2003** | H1 | H2B | H23 | H6 | H9 | H25 | H26 | M3 | M5 | M6 | M30 | M26 | M27 | M28 | Marratta Lake | Beaver Pond |
| *T. granulosa* | ns | ns | 2 | 1 | ns | ns | ns | ns | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | ns | ns | 0 | ns |
| *A. gracile* | ns | ns | 19 | 42 | ns | ns | ns | ns | 1 | 27 | 21 | 0 | ns | ns | 1 | ns |
| **2005** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *T. granulosa* adult | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | ns | 3 | 1 | ns | 0 |
| *T. granulosa* larvae | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ns | 0 | 0 | ns | 0 |
| *A. granulosa* neotene | 2 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 11 | ns | 4 | 2 | ns | 25 |
| *A. gracile* larvae | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ns | 0 | 0 | ns | 0 |

| | Blowdown | | | | | | Reference | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2003** | Curtis | St. Charles | Ryan | Meta | Ghost | Strawberry | Goat Marsh | McBride |
| *T. granulosa* adult | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | ns | 46 | 40 |
| *A. gracile* | 27 | 33 | 17 | 4 | 3 | ns | 0 | 0 |
| **2005** | | | | | | | | |
| *T. granulosa* adult | ns | 3 | 0 | ns | 0 | 46 | 29 | 5 |
| *T. granulosa* larvae | ns | 1 | 0 | ns | 0 | 0 | 21 | 7 |
| *A. gracile* neotene | ns | 28 | 15 | ns | 1 | 0 | 16 | 12 |
| *A. gracile* larvae | ns | 8 | 0 | ns | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

# APPENDIX B

## ALLELE FREQUENCY TABLES

Table B.1 Allele frequencies for *Taricha granulosa* and *Ambystoma gracile* from Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. N indicates the number of animals genotyped at a locus. Allele sizes are in base pairs.

*Taricha granulosa*

| Locus | size | Hummocks | Maratta | Strawberry | St Charles | McBride | Goat Marsh |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tgr 01 | N | 6 | 26 | 41 | 11 | 43 | 75 |
| | 215 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 219 | 0.167 | 0.154 | 0.146 | 0.000 | 0.105 | 0.140 |
| | 223 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.061 | 0.182 | 0.035 | 0.047 |
| | 227 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 |
| | 231 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.035 | 0.033 |
| | 235 | 0.083 | 0.192 | 0.220 | 0.136 | 0.326 | 0.220 |
| | 239 | 0.083 | 0.231 | 0.220 | 0.091 | 0.233 | 0.287 |
| | 243 | 0.083 | 0.096 | 0.061 | 0.273 | 0.128 | 0.167 |
| | 247 | 0.167 | 0.058 | 0.061 | 0.091 | 0.035 | 0.040 |
| | 251 | 0.083 | 0.000 | 0.073 | 0.091 | 0.012 | 0.007 |
| | 255 | 0.333 | 0.077 | 0.061 | 0.045 | 0.035 | 0.053 |
| | 259 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.061 | 0.091 | 0.023 | 0.007 |
| | 263 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 271 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 |
| Tgr 02 | N | 6 | 26 | 37 | 11 | 40 | 73 |
| | 179 | 0.167 | 0.192 | 0.041 | 0.000 | 0.150 | 0.212 |
| | 183 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.027 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.014 |
| | 187 | 0.083 | 0.096 | 0.176 | 0.227 | 0.175 | 0.082 |
| | 191 | 0.083 | 0.077 | 0.135 | 0.045 | 0.038 | 0.062 |
| | 195 | 0.167 | 0.135 | 0.378 | 0.273 | 0.213 | 0.144 |
| | 199 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.027 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.007 |
| | 203 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.068 | 0.227 | 0.025 | 0.103 |
| | 207 | 0.167 | 0.269 | 0.081 | 0.136 | 0.175 | 0.267 |
| | 211 | 0.250 | 0.154 | 0.054 | 0.091 | 0.100 | 0.062 |
| | 215 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.007 |
| | 235 | 0.083 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.014 |
| | 239 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.000 |
| | 243 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.000 |
| | 245 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 247 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.021 |
| | 255 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.007 |

| Tgr 06 | N | 6 | 25 | 41 | 11 | 41 | 76 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 145 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.045 | 0.073 | 0.013 |
| | 149 | 0.083 | 0.200 | 0.207 | 0.045 | 0.134 | 0.132 |
| | 153 | 0.083 | 0.080 | 0.061 | 0.045 | 0.134 | 0.145 |
| | 157 | 0.417 | 0.380 | 0.305 | 0.409 | 0.293 | 0.309 |
| | 159 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 |
| | 161 | 0.333 | 0.160 | 0.171 | 0.091 | 0.195 | 0.250 |
| | 163 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 165 | 0.083 | 0.080 | 0.110 | 0.182 | 0.098 | 0.053 |
| | 167 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.037 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.046 |
| | 169 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.024 | 0.182 | 0.049 | 0.033 |
| | 171 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 173 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.020 |

| Tgr 10 | N | 6 | 26 | 41 | 11 | 43 | 75 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 174 | 0.083 | 0.038 | 0.110 | 0.045 | 0.116 | 0.093 |
| | 178 | 0.083 | 0.096 | 0.110 | 0.136 | 0.035 | 0.020 |
| | 182 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.035 | 0.013 |
| | 186 | 0.250 | 0.173 | 0.122 | 0.182 | 0.267 | 0.213 |
| | 190 | 0.250 | 0.269 | 0.232 | 0.091 | 0.198 | 0.233 |
| | 194 | 0.000 | 0.058 | 0.037 | 0.136 | 0.047 | 0.060 |
| | 198 | 0.083 | 0.135 | 0.024 | 0.227 | 0.070 | 0.080 |
| | 202 | 0.167 | 0.154 | 0.268 | 0.136 | 0.151 | 0.167 |
| | 206 | 0.083 | 0.038 | 0.098 | 0.045 | 0.035 | 0.100 |
| | 210 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.035 | 0.013 |
| | 214 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.007 |

| Tgr 14 | N | 6 | 26 | 41 | 11 | 41 | 74 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 218 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.007 |
| | 222 | 0.083 | 0.077 | 0.061 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.027 |
| | 226 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.027 |
| | 230 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 |
| | 234 | 0.000 | 0.058 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.110 | 0.074 |
| | 238 | 0.083 | 0.019 | 0.085 | 0.045 | 0.061 | 0.068 |
| | 242 | 0.167 | 0.038 | 0.037 | 0.136 | 0.134 | 0.068 |
| | 246 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.085 | 0.136 | 0.073 | 0.108 |
| | 248 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 |
| | 250 | 0.000 | 0.096 | 0.049 | 0.045 | 0.024 | 0.047 |
| | 254 | 0.083 | 0.077 | 0.061 | 0.045 | 0.024 | 0.041 |
| | 258 | 0.083 | 0.058 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.041 |
| | 262 | 0.167 | 0.115 | 0.073 | 0.318 | 0.073 | 0.034 |
| | 266 | 0.083 | 0.058 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.027 |
| | 270 | 0.083 | 0.096 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.007 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 274 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 |
| 278 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 282 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.054 |
| 286 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.020 |
| 290 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.098 | 0.091 | 0.073 | 0.027 |
| 294 | 0.167 | 0.000 | 0.122 | 0.045 | 0.061 | 0.068 |
| 298 | 0.000 | 0.096 | 0.085 | 0.045 | 0.037 | 0.088 |
| 302 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.034 |
| 306 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 |
| 308 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.061 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.027 |
| 312 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.024 | 0.041 |
| 314 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 316 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.024 | 0.045 | 0.049 | 0.007 |
| 318 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 320 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 |
| 328 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 |

*Ambystoma gracile*

| Locus | Size | Hummocks | Maratta | Curtis | Ryan | St. Charles | Goat Marsh | McBride |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agr 23 | N | 68 | 47 | 23 | 25 | 44 | 14 | 16 |
| | 206 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 214 | 0.022 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 218 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.065 | 0.040 | 0.080 | 0.036 | 0.000 |
| | 222 | 0.000 | 0.011 | 0.022 | 0.140 | 0.023 | 0.071 | 0.000 |
| | 226 | 0.154 | 0.149 | 0.043 | 0.060 | 0.102 | 0.179 | 0.000 |
| | 230 | 0.029 | 0.128 | 0.130 | 0.080 | 0.114 | 0.036 | 0.094 |
| | 234 | 0.059 | 0.096 | 0.087 | 0.080 | 0.102 | 0.071 | 0.219 |
| | 238 | 0.162 | 0.043 | 0.130 | 0.060 | 0.182 | 0.036 | 0.156 |
| | 242 | 0.074 | 0.149 | 0.087 | 0.060 | 0.114 | 0.214 | 0.125 |
| | 246 | 0.191 | 0.128 | 0.196 | 0.160 | 0.148 | 0.214 | 0.125 |
| | 248 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 250 | 0.022 | 0.106 | 0.065 | 0.040 | 0.045 | 0.107 | 0.094 |
| | 254 | 0.140 | 0.106 | 0.043 | 0.060 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 256 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.063 |
| | 258 | 0.096 | 0.021 | 0.087 | 0.080 | 0.034 | 0.036 | 0.063 |
| | 262 | 0.022 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.020 | 0.034 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 266 | 0.000 | 0.011 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 270 | 0.022 | 0.011 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 280 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Agr 49 | N | 61 | 48 | 13 | 17 | 40 | 10 | 15 |
| | 151 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.050 | 0.067 |
| | 155 | 0.016 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.050 | 0.000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 159 | 0.082 | 0.063 | 0.077 | 0.059 | 0.013 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| | 163 | 0.098 | 0.125 | 0.000 | 0.088 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.133 |
| | 166 | 0.041 | 0.042 | 0.077 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.050 | 0.067 |
| | 167 | 0.041 | 0.052 | 0.077 | 0.088 | 0.100 | 0.150 | 0.033 |
| | 171 | 0.115 | 0.073 | 0.077 | 0.059 | 0.063 | 0.050 | 0.067 |
| | 175 | 0.107 | 0.042 | 0.038 | 0.088 | 0.063 | 0.000 | 0.033 |
| | 179 | 0.016 | 0.063 | 0.038 | 0.059 | 0.025 | 0.000 | 0.133 |
| | 183 | 0.033 | 0.083 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.063 | 0.150 | 0.067 |
| | 187 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.038 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 191 | 0.016 | 0.010 | 0.038 | 0.147 | 0.088 | 0.150 | 0.067 |
| | 192 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.063 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 193 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 195 | 0.107 | 0.021 | 0.077 | 0.029 | 0.013 | 0.050 | 0.033 |
| | 196 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 199 | 0.008 | 0.010 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| | 200 | 0.057 | 0.031 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 203 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.050 | 0.167 |
| | 204 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 207 | 0.008 | 0.021 | 0.077 | 0.029 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 208 | 0.000 | 0.031 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.050 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 210 | 0.000 | 0.010 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 211 | 0.008 | 0.010 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.133 |
| | 212 | 0.033 | 0.010 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| | 215 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 216 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.077 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 217 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 218 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.100 | 0.000 |
| | 219 | 0.049 | 0.063 | 0.000 | 0.059 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 220 | 0.016 | 0.073 | 0.000 | 0.088 | 0.025 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 223 | 0.057 | 0.031 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 224 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 228 | 0.049 | 0.031 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 232 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 235 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 237 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 243 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 258 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 280 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agr 314 | N | 67 | 36 | 22 | 25 | 42 | 11 | 16 |
| | 164 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 168 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 172 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.094 |
| | 176 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 180 | 0.022 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| 184 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.156 |
| 188 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.136 | 0.000 |
| 190 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 192 | 0.022 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 195 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 196 | 0.045 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 200 | 0.082 | 0.028 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.036 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 202 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 204 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 206 | 0.000 | 0.069 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 208 | 0.112 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| 212 | 0.276 | 0.097 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.071 | 0.045 | 0.063 |
| 214 | 0.000 | 0.028 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 216 | 0.007 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.091 | 0.031 |
| 217 | 0.045 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 220 | 0.022 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.094 |
| 221 | 0.007 | 0.014 | 0.091 | 0.000 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 222 | 0.007 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| 224 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.125 |
| 225 | 0.030 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 226 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 228 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.068 | 0.040 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 229 | 0.007 | 0.014 | 0.023 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| 230 | 0.119 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 232 | 0.022 | 0.056 | 0.045 | 0.020 | 0.167 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| 233 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.091 | 0.040 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 234 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 236 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.012 | 0.136 | 0.063 |
| 237 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.045 | 0.040 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| 238 | 0.015 | 0.083 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.107 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 240 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.091 | 0.000 |
| 241 | 0.015 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 242 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 244 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.080 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 245 | 0.007 | 0.097 | 0.000 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.094 |
| 246 | 0.000 | 0.069 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 248 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 249 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 250 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 252 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 253 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.094 |
| 255 | 0.000 | 0.056 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 256 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 257 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 258 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 260 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 262 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.136 | 0.000 |
| | 264 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 265 | 0.000 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 267 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 268 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.114 | 0.060 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 270 | 0.015 | 0.042 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 272 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.040 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 274 | 0.030 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 276 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.023 | 0.040 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 278 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 280 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 281 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 285 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.045 | 0.060 | 0.036 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 300 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Agr 226 | N | 69 | 43 | 24 | 25 | 43 | 14 | 16 |
| | 240 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.047 | 0.036 | 0.000 |
| | 252 | 0.029 | 0.012 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.047 | 0.036 | 0.000 |
| | 256 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.042 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 260 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.063 | 0.040 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 264 | 0.080 | 0.093 | 0.021 | 0.040 | 0.058 | 0.071 | 0.031 |
| | 268 | 0.029 | 0.151 | 0.000 | 0.060 | 0.035 | 0.036 | 0.063 |
| | 272 | 0.022 | 0.058 | 0.042 | 0.020 | 0.047 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 276 | 0.283 | 0.163 | 0.146 | 0.020 | 0.163 | 0.036 | 0.063 |
| | 280 | 0.036 | 0.151 | 0.146 | 0.080 | 0.058 | 0.143 | 0.156 |
| | 284 | 0.101 | 0.035 | 0.146 | 0.080 | 0.093 | 0.179 | 0.219 |
| | 288 | 0.203 | 0.093 | 0.042 | 0.060 | 0.058 | 0.143 | 0.094 |
| | 292 | 0.000 | 0.070 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.047 | 0.071 | 0.031 |
| | 296 | 0.014 | 0.035 | 0.021 | 0.060 | 0.047 | 0.036 | 0.125 |
| | 300 | 0.036 | 0.023 | 0.021 | 0.060 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 305 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.036 | 0.000 |
| | 309 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.020 | 0.081 | 0.071 | 0.094 |
| | 313 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.012 | 0.036 | 0.000 |
| | 317 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 326 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 330 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 332 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 334 | 0.109 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.036 | 0.031 |
| | 338 | 0.007 | 0.012 | 0.063 | 0.080 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 342 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 346 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.060 | 0.058 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 350 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.120 | 0.058 | 0.036 | 0.000 |
| | 354 | 0.000 | 0.070 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 358 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 362 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 370 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

| Agr 314 | N | 67 | 36 | 22 | 25 | 42 | 11 | 16 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 164 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 168 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 172 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.094 |
| | 176 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 180 | 0.022 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| | 184 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.156 |
| | 188 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.136 | 0.000 |
| | 190 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 192 | 0.022 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 195 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 196 | 0.045 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 200 | 0.082 | 0.028 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.036 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 202 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 204 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 206 | 0.000 | 0.069 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 208 | 0.112 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| | 212 | 0.276 | 0.097 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.071 | 0.045 | 0.063 |
| | 214 | 0.000 | 0.028 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 216 | 0.007 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.091 | 0.031 |
| | 217 | 0.045 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 220 | 0.022 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.094 |
| | 221 | 0.007 | 0.014 | 0.091 | 0.000 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 222 | 0.007 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| | 224 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.125 |
| | 225 | 0.030 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| | 226 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 228 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.068 | 0.040 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 229 | 0.007 | 0.014 | 0.023 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| | 230 | 0.119 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 232 | 0.022 | 0.056 | 0.045 | 0.020 | 0.167 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| | 233 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.091 | 0.040 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 234 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 236 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.012 | 0.136 | 0.063 |
| | 237 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.045 | 0.040 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| | 238 | 0.015 | 0.083 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.107 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| | 240 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.091 | 0.000 |
| | 241 | 0.015 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 242 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 244 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.080 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 245 | 0.007 | 0.097 | 0.000 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.094 |
| 246 | 0.000 | 0.069 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 248 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 249 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 250 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 252 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 253 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.094 |
| 255 | 0.000 | 0.056 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 256 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| 257 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 258 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 260 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 262 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.136 | 0.000 |
| 264 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 265 | 0.000 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 267 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 268 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.114 | 0.060 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 270 | 0.015 | 0.042 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 272 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.040 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 274 | 0.030 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 276 | 0.000 | 0.042 | 0.023 | 0.040 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 278 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 280 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 281 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 285 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.045 | 0.060 | 0.036 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 300 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

# APPENDIX C

## DISTANCE MATRIX

Table C.1. Matrix of Nei's unbiased genetic distances and topographic distances between collection sites at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Distances (km) are above the diagonal, Nei's unbiased genetic distances are below the diagonal. Top number is Nei's genetic distance using AFLPs for *Ambystoma gracile*, middle number is Nei's genetic distance using microsatellites for *A. gracile*, and bottom number is Nei's genetic distance using microsatellites for *Taricha granulosa*. N/A indicates not applicable. Abbreviations for collection sites are as in Table 3.2.

| | HU | MA | CU | RY | SC | SB | GM | MB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HU | | 1.60 | 17.37 | 18.61 | 14.69 | 18.13 | 13.90 | 16.19 |
| MA | 0.013<br>0.280<br>0.000 | | 18.54 | 18.86 | 15.77 | 18.92 | 15.24 | 17.42 |
| CU | 0.030<br>0.291<br>n/a | 0.025<br>0.254<br>n/a | | 8.50 | 2.98 | n/a | 23.66 | 23.41 |
| RY | 0.028<br>0.507<br>n/a | 0.025<br>0.232<br>n/a | 0.016<br>0.056<br>n/a | | 7.55 | n/a | 28.36 | 28.94 |
| SC | 0.038<br>0.312<br>0.048 | 0.032<br>0.196<br>0.150 | 0.007<br>0.016<br>n/a | 0.007<br>0.142<br>n/a | | 4.96 | 21.65 | 22.23 |
| SB | n/a<br>n/a<br>0.005 | n/a<br>n/a<br>0.084 | n/a | n/a | n/a<br>n/a<br>0.136 | | 26.56 | 27.46 |
| GM | 0.027<br>0.430<br>0.000 | 0.018<br>0.240<br>0.002 | 0.024<br>0.130 | 0.031<br>0.157 | 0.027<br>0.180<br>0.213 | n/a<br>n/a<br>0.116 | | 2.97 |
| MB | 0.045<br>0.543<br>0.000 | 0.031<br>0.326<br>0.017 | 0.034<br>0.210 | 0.044<br>0.245 | 0.035<br>0.331<br>0.131 | n/a<br>n/a<br>0.064 | 0.014<br>0.189<br>0.012 | |

# APPENDIX D

## ALL *AMBYSTOMA* PRIMERS

To date, there are no published microsatellite primers for *A. gracile*. I tried 65 sets of primers from five other species of *Ambystoma*: *A. maculatum* (Wieczorek *et al.* 2002; Julian *et al.* 2003a) sister species to *A. gracile*, *A. jeffersonianum* (Julian *et al.* 2003b), *A. tigrinum* (Mech *et al.* 2003), *A. macrodactylum* (Shields & Liss 2003) and *A. texanum* (Williams & Dewoody 2004; Table 1). Of these, only four amplified sufficiently and cleanly enough to use: AmaD49, AmaD226, AjeD23, and AjeD314. Details on their use are in chapter 3 of this dissertation. Other primers amplified but either showed no variation (all animals the same) or too many peaks (e.g. > 2). The genome of *Ambystoma* is large, ranging from a C- value of 21.85 pg in *A. mexicanum* to 80.7 pg in *A. laterale* (Gregory 2006). The C-value of *A. gracile* is 42.0 pg (as reference, the human C-value = 3.5 pg; Licht & Lowcock 1991). This high level of genomic complexity likely contributed to the failure of many of the primers to amplify across species or caused amplification of more than two bands.

Conditions for amplification of DNA via PCR generally follow those in chapter 3. If a primer looked promising, I attempted optimization by varying annealing temperatures and/or concentration of $MgCl_2$. Some primers were labeled with a fluorophore (HEX, 6-FAM, NED, VIC, or PET). For those, suitability for use was determined by testing a minimum of 6 samples, and a positive control (except for *A. texanum* and *A. jeffersonianum*) then examining PCR products on a 1.7% or 2% agarose gel with TBE. No two samples were from the same collection site to increase the probability of detecting variation. To visualize the PCR product, I stained the gel with either ethidium bromide or SYBR Safe™ DNA gel stain (Invitrogen, Eugene, OR). This is indicated in the table as “gel”. Promising PCR products, as indicated on the gel by one or two bands

within 150–450 base pair range) were sent to either the Nevada Genomics Center, Reno, NV or the Center for Integrated BioSystems at Utah State University, Logan, UT for separation on an ABI PRISM 3730 or ABI PRISM 3100. I used GENEMAPPER 3.0 (Applied Biosystems Inc.) to score each sample and round allele sizes to the appropriate whole number. This is indicated in the table as "ABI". For those primers that were not labeled, I tested a minimum of 6 samples, plus a positive control, and ran the PCR product out on a 1.7% or 2% agarose gel with TBE and an appropriate sized DNA ladder to approximate the band size. I also sent 8 samples of *A. gracile* DNA to Mr. Ken Jones at Genetic Identification Services (9552 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Chatsworth, CA 91311) where the *A. macrodactylum* primers were developed. None of the samples amplified. Notes in the observation column of table 1 apply to *A. gracile* samples, not the control. Any numbers relating to peaks is the fragment size in base pairs. Micropeaks refer to those peaks that look like signal but are so small that they could not be distinguished from noise.

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Table D.1. *Ambystoma* microsatellite primers in *A. gracile.* Abbreviations used in this table are bp (base pairs), and amp (amplification).

| Primer | Ref | Developed for | Testing method | Observations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AjeD03 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | all samples > 3 peaks, all small and messy |
| AjeD108 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | No amplification |
| AjeD13 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | No amplification |
| AjeD162 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Poor amplification; multiple and micropeaks most samples. |
| AjeD212 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Most had a 284 bp and 383 bp peak, no variation between samples |
| AjeD23 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | USED IN THIS STUDY / cleanest and best of the bunch |
| AjeD280 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Good amplification but 60 of 78 animals homozygotes, others 2-4 peaks / Tested 1.5mM and 2.0mM MgCl2 |
| AjeD283 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Messy; multiple peaks all animals |
| AjeD294 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | > 2 peaks, all in noise range, all samples |
| AjeD314 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | USED IN THIS STUDY |
| AjeD326 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | > 2 peaks, all samples; overall messy |
| AjeD346 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Ugly clumps of peaks, messy / retested: gel only, single band @ 250 bp all samples, no variation |
| AjeD37 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | No amplification |
| AjeD378 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Some amplification, messy, spectra looked like ECG / retested, gel only, PD and 2-3 bands > 500 bp |
| AjeD422 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | No to poor amplification; messy |
| AjeD448 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Most samples 3 peaks, but good amplification |
| AjeD46 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | No amplification |
| AjeD75 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | One large peak at 111 bp all samples, 0 to 3 additional peaks in all samples / retested, gel only, 1 band > 500 bp; no variation |
| AjeD84 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Good amplification, tested 31 animals / attempted temp and MgCl2 optimization / most samples had odd set of 279 & 354 bp peaks in addition to others |
| AjeD94 | 1 | jeffersonianum | ABI | Ok amplification but abnormally high amount of variation: 28 animals had 24 alleles |
| F104 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification / primer-dimer only |
| F11 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification / primer-dimer only |
| F12b | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |
| F136 | 2 | macrodactylum | ABI | All samples, 1 peak @ 92 bp |
| F142 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |
| H120 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | Primer-dimer only |
| H123b | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |
| H129 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| H136 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |
| H18 | 2 | macrodactylum | ABI | Good amplification with 2-3 peaks/animal; no variation |
| H20 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |
| H29 | 2 | macrodactylum | GEL | No amplification |
| Ama5-1 | 3 | maculatum | GEL | Poor amplification; smear from 200-300 bp |
| Ama07 | 3 | maculatum | ABI | No variation ; most with peak @ 160 bp |
| Ama11-2B | 3 | maculatum | GEL | Smear and primer-dimer |
| Ama12-7 | 3 | maculatum | ABI | Messy; all with 3 - 6 peaks |
| Ama3-3 | 3 | maculatum | ABI | Each animal with peaks @ 147,155,316, 321 bp ; no variation |
| Ama34 | 3 | maculatum | GEL | No variation, 1 band approx 100bp all animals |
| Ama4-10 | 3 | maculatum | ABI | Every animal with peaks at 157,188, 277 bp; no variation |
| Ama61 | 3 | maculatum | ABI | Multiple peaks/sample |
| AmaC151 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | All micropeaks , poor amplification, >3 peaks/sample |
| AmaC40 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | 2 peaks/sample; no variation / retested; gel only, single band @ 150 bp; no variation |
| AmaD184 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | Multiple peaks/sample, noisy, some with large peak at 280 |
| AmaD203 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | Poor amplification; micropeaks |
| AmaD226 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | USED IN THIS STUDY |
| AmaD287 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | No amplification |
| AmaD315 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | No amplification |
| AmaD321 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | Only 1 peak in all samples / no variation |
| AmaD328 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | 2-3 peaks/sample; unsuccessfully tried to optimize with temperature and MgCl2 gradients, resulted in mostly primer-dimer |
| AmaD367 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | No amplification |
| AmaD42 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | Good amplification but no bi, tri, tetra pattern discernable after 303 animals (alleles range from 168-424 bp, 68 total alleles) / attempted temperature and MgCl2 gradients |
| AmaD450 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | Amplification in only 1 sample which was messy |
| AmaD49 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | USED IN THIS STUDY |
| AmaD95 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | No variation and poor amplification |
| AmaD99 | 4 | maculatum | ABI | Amplification, messy |
| Atex65 | 5 | texanum | ABI | Some amplification; messy, some samples have 2-5 peaks; 1 sample with 3 nice peaks |
| ATS10-7 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | No amplification |
| ATS12-3 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | No amplification |
| ATS14-3 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | All samples smeared |
| ATS4-11 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | Primer-dimer only |
| ATS4-20 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | Bad PCR? or no amplification |
| ATS4-25 | 6 | tigrinum | ABI | All with 3 peaks @ 232, 241, 253 bp ; no variation |
| ATS5-6 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | Poor amplification |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ATS5-7 | 6 | tigrinum | ABI | Good amplification but no variation, all with peak @ 228 bp |
| ATS5-8 | 6 | tigrinum | GEL | No amplification / primer-dimer only |

| Reference | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Julian *et al.* 2003b |
| 2 | Shields and Liss 2003 |
| 3 | Wieczorek *et al.* 2002 |
| 4 | Julian *et al.* 2003a |
| 5 | Williams and DeWoody 2004 |
| 6 | Mech *et al.* 2003 |

# CURRICULUM VITAE


## KRISTIN A. BAKKEGARD

Department of Biology
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322–5305
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### EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Ph.D. | Biology, Utah State University, Logan, May 2008.<br>Advisor: Dr. Edmund D. Brodie, Jr. |
| M.S. | Zoology (ecology minor), Auburn University, Auburn, Aug 2001.<br>Advisor: Dr. Craig Guyer |
| M.A. | Chemistry, Boston University, Boston, Sept 1995.<br>Advisor: Dr. John K. Snyder |
| B.S. | Chemistry, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, May 1988.<br>Advisor: Dr. Jeffery Fitzgerald |

### TEACHING

- Graduate Instructor, Animal Physiology (BIOL 5600); 3 hr lecture, Utah State University, SP 2008.
- Graduate Instructor, Comparative Animal Physiology Laboratory (BIOL 5610), 2 sections, stand-alone lab, supervise 1 GTA, Utah State University, FA 2007.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Animal Physiology (BIOL 5600), SP 2007.
- Graduate Instructor, Comparative Animal Physiology Laboratory (BIOL 5610), 2 sections, stand-alone lab, supervise 1 GTA, Utah State University, FA 2006.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Comparative Animal Physiology Lab, Utah State University. FA 2005-SP 2006.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, General Physiology (3 qtrs), Herpetology (1 qtr, 1 sem), and Vertebrate Biodiversity (1 qtr, 1 sem), Auburn University, 1998-2001.
- Tutor, General Chemistry, Auburn University Athletic Department, 1998-2000.
- Assistant Professor of Naval Science, Boston University, Boston, MA. Introduction to Naval Science (1 sem), Principles of Naval Weapon Systems (1 sem) and Surface Ship Operations (2 sem). Academic advisor for freshman and sophomore midshipmen, 1993-1995.

### RESEARCH

- Utah State University dissertation: The genetics of colonization of two amphibian species after the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Study Site: Mount St. Helens, Washington State, 2001-present.
- Auburn University thesis: Activity, foraging, and body size of the Red Hills salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*), 1998-2001.
- Research Assistant, Auburn University Natural History Museum, 2000.

- Boston University: Synthesized various canthinones, 1993-1995.
- U.S. Naval Academy, senior project: Synthesis of soluble tetraazaporphyrins, 1988.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer reviewed*

Reed, R.N., **Bakkegard, K. A**., Desy, G. E., Plentovich, S. M. 2007. Diet composition of the invasive cane toad (*Chaunus marinus*) on Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. Pacific Conservation Biology 13: 219-222.

Bakkegard, K. A. 2007. Interactions between the Red Hills Salamander and its potential invertebrate prey. Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science 78: 1-12.

Bakkegard, K. A. 2005. Antipredator behaviors of the Red Hills Salamander, *Phaeognathus hubrichti*. Southeastern Naturalist 4: 23-32.

Bakkegard, K. A. and C. Guyer. 2004. Sexual size dimorphism in the Red Hills Salamander, *Phaeognathus hubrichti* (Caudata: Plethodontidae: Desmognathinae). Journal of Herpetology 38: 8-15.

Bakkegard, K. A. 2002. Activity patterns of Red Hills Salamanders (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*) at their burrow entrances. Copeia 2002: 851-856.

### *Non peer reviewed or reports*

Bakkegard, K. A. and M. P. Greene. 2002. *Heterodon platirhinos*. Diet. Herpetological Review 33: 314-315.

Bakkegard, K. A. and R. M. Timm 2001. *Boa constrictor*. Diet. Herpetological Review 32: 261-262.

Bakkegard, K. A. and C. Guyer. 2000. Population estimate of Red Hills salamanders at the proposed Falkenberry Hill construction site, Monroe Co., AL. Unpubl. report to the State of Alabama Department of Transportation.

### *For submission*

Bakkegard, K.A. Learning and avoidance of noxious prey in the Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*). In prep for Animal Behaviour. Rough draft of manuscript completed.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS

### *Academic*

- E.B. Carmichael Award, outstanding paper during 2007 in the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science
- Department of Biology, Graduate Teacher of the Year, Utah State University (Academic Year 2005-2006).
- Tracy Storer Award in Herpetology (Best Student Poster), 2006 Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, New Orleans, LA, 2006.
- Willard L. Eccles Foundation Science Fellowship ($18,000/year). Utah State University, College of Science, 2001-2004.
- Finalist for 2000 Herpetologists' League Award for Graduate Research, 2000.
- Graduated with merit, United States Naval Academy; 1 of 47 Midshipmen to receive Superintendent's Letter of Commendation, 1988.

### *Military*

- Flag Letter of Commendation by Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), for outstanding leadership as recognized by the Sea Services Leadership Association, 2006.
- Navy League Leadership Award for highest class standing in Surface Warfare Officer Department Head class (#1 of 62), 1996.
- Navy Commendation medal (4), Navy Achievement medal (4), Navy Unit Commendation, Battle E (2), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (M device), Rifle Sharpshooter, Pistol Sharpshooter Ribbon.

## PROFESSIONAL

### *Academic*

- Graduate Student Representative, USU Dept. of Biology, Faculty Search Committee for Animal Physiologist, 2007-2008.
- Graduate Student Representative, USU Dept. of Biology, Graduate Programs Committee, 2005-2007.
- Reviewer: Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, 2007.
- Reviewer: Herpetological Review, 2003.
- Reviewer: Herpetologica and Journal of Herpetology, 2002.
- Assistant Curator of Herpetology, Auburn University Natural History Museum, 2001-2002.

### *Military*

- Naval War College, College of Distant Education Command and Staff Diploma, 2007.
- Commanding Officer, Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (MIUWU) 109, Oct 2004-Dec 2006.
- Recall to active duty with MIUWU 103 as Executive Officer to include six months in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi & Enduring Freedom, 2004.
- Navy Reservist: Present rank: Commander. Variety of units and billets including Operations and Executive Officer of NR CNE-C6F MPP Det 118 (Jan 07–present) and Commanding Officer of NR COMIDEASTFOR Det 109 (Oct 2000-Oct 2001), 1998 - present.
- Naval Officer on active duty. Surface Warfare qualified, served on 3 US Navy ships and as a NROTC instructor at Boston University, Boston MA, 1988-1998.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

"The genetic response of *Taricha granulosa* to the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens" Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, New Orleans, LA, July 2006. - Poster.

"Antipredator behaviors of *Phaeognathus hubrichti* (Plethodontidae, Desmognathinae): Convergence or phylogeny" Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Manaus, Brazil. June 2003. - Poster.

"Sexual size dimorphism in the Red Hills salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*)" Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, College Station, PA. July 2001. - Oral.

"Activity of the Red Hills salamander at the burrow entrance" Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. La Paz, Mexico. June 2000. - Oral.

"Natural history and burrow use by the Red Hills salamander, *Phaeognathus hubrichti*" Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Natural Heritage Program. June 2000. - Oral.

"Activity of the Red Hills salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*) at the burrow entrance" Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, College Station, PA. June 1999 -Oral.

**GRANTS**

- USU Graduate Travel Award ($300) for meeting in New Orleans, LA, 2006.
- American Museum of Natural History, T. Roosevelt Memorial Fund ($1,522), 2005.
- Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research ($750), 2004. .
- USU Graduate Travel Award ($300) for meeting in Manaus, Brazil, 2003.
- Alabama Dept. of Transportation ($9,900). A survey of Red Hills salamanders at the Falkenberry Hill truck lanes construction site. (with Dr. C. Guyer), 2000.

**FIELD**

- Field assistant to Dr. J.A. Campbell (U. Texas-Arlington), capturing reptiles and amphibians in Guerrero, MX for his research on the reptiles/amphibians of MX, June 2002.
- Field assistant to Dr. R.M. Austin (Piedmont College), capturing/identifying amphibians in Costa Rica for his research on the bacterial fauna living on the skin of tropical amphibians. Follow on trip to Belize, assisting lab mate in collecting *Boa constrictor*, July-Aug 2001.
- Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), Tropical Biology, An Ecological Approach course. Emphasized field techniques used in tropical biology, Jan-Mar 2000.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Science Olympiad Official for "Reptiles and Amphibians", Auburn, AL, 2001.
- Reptile and amphibian talk to first grade class at Smith's Station Elementary School, Smith's Station, AL, 2000.
- Reptile, amphibian and conservation talk to Ecology Day Camp held at the Forest Ecology Preserve, Auburn, AL, 2000.
- Presentation to Fairhope Elementary School (Fairhope, AL) and various state officials on the Red Hills salamander in support of the school's effort to have the Red Hills salamander named the official state amphibian, 1999.
- Auburn Herpetological Society Rescue and Relocation team, 1999-2001.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Phi Kappa Phi, 2001-present.
- Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, 2000-present
- Society for the Study of Reptiles and Amphibians, 1999-present
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, 1999-present
- The Herpetologists' League, 1999-present
- American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1996-present