PLETHODON HOFFMANNI (Valley and Ridge Salamander).  
PREDATION. On 28 April 1998, I collected a northern ringneck snake, Diadophis punctatus edwardsii, (24.5 cm SVL; 6.5 cm tail) in Fulton County, Pennsylvania, USA (40°02'00"N, 77°59'05"W) that regurgitated a partially digested P. hoffmanni. These specimens are cataloged as USNM 531134 (D. punctatus) and USNM 531135 (P. hoffmanni) in the U.S. National Museum. Although it is known that small salamanders are a common prey of Diadophis (Cupp 1994. Anim. Behav. 48:232–235; Lancaster and Wise 1996. Herpetologica 52:98–108), no published reports of predation on P. hoffmanni exist (Petranka 1998. Salamanders of the United States and Canada, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 587 pp.). Plethodon cinereus has been found to comprise a significant proportion of the diet of D. punctatus (Blanchard et al. 1979. J. Herpetol. 13:377–402). Because D. punctatus occurs at geographic localities inhabited by P. hoffmanni but not P. cinereus (unpubl. data), it seems likely that D. punctatus is an important predator of P. hoffmanni.

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