FIG. 1. Hypomelanistic *Plethodon cinereus* from Rhode Island, USA displaying uniform, partial reduction of skin pigmentation (top right), as compared to red-backed (top left) and lead-backed (bottom) conspecifics.

***PLETHODON CINEREUS* (Eastern Red-backed Salamander). HYPOMELANISM.** *Plethodon cinereus* is one of the most abundant vertebrate species in the North American forests in which it occurs (Burton and Likens 1975. Copeia 1975:541–546). Across its range, *P. cinereus* is known to exist in a variety of color morphs, the most well-known of which are the red-backed, lead-backed, and erythristic forms (Mitchel and Mazur 1998. Northeast. Nat. 5:367–369). In addition to the more frequently observed phenotypes, iridistic, albino, leucistic, amelanistic, and melanistic variants of *P. cinereus* have also been reported (Moore and Ouellet 2014. Can. Field-Nat. 128:250–259). This account describes the occurrence of a ninth, hypomelanistic color morph of *P. cinereus* in Rhode Island, USA.

At 2147 h on 1 May 2020, a single hypomelanistic *P. cinereus* was observed thrashing at the surface of a vernal pool in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA (41.47279°N, 71.52674°W; WGS 84; 60 m elev.), likely after falling into the pool from a nearby natural embankment. It was subsequently removed from the water, photographed (Fig. 1), and released on land. Numerous conspecifics displaying both red-backed and lead-backed coloration were moving about in the open that evening due to warm and rainy conditions and were thus included in the photographs for reference.

It is important to note that hypomelanism is an umbrella term referring to any reduction of the skin pigment melanin and can include the extreme cases of albinism and leucism, which differ from the partial reduction of pigment observed here (Grant 2017. Que. Nat. 55:22). This uniform but incomplete loss of melanin has been previously reported in the closely related *P. serratus* (Drake and O'Donnell 2014. Am. Midl. Nat. 171:172–177), but to the best of my knowledge has not been formally described in *P. cinereus*.

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