



Salamandra salmonea.

SALAMANDRA SALMONEA.—*Storer*.*Plate VIII.*

CHARACTERS. Head large, flat; snout obtuse, truncated, with a salmon-coloured line on each side to the orbits; body and tail yellowish-brown above; salmon-colour, with a tinge of yellow, at the sides.

SYNONYME. *Salamandra salmonea*, *Storer*, MSS.

DESCRIPTION. The head is large and flattened above, with a broad and almost square snout. The mouth is rather large; the tongue is small, sub-round, and attached by a slender and rather short pedicle. The palatine teeth begin on each side at the outer and posterior margin of the posterior nares, which are very large; thence they run inwards and forwards to a line with their anterior border, and then suddenly turn back and run parallel to each other throughout the whole length of the palate. These teeth are all exceedingly minute and much arched backwards.

The nostrils are near its extremity, far apart, and antero-superior. The eyes are very prominent and large, the pupil deep black, the iris shining copper-colour. The skin of the chin and neck is smooth, with a transverse fold.

The body is cylindrical and much elongated. The tail is longer than the body, thick and rounded at the root, compressed laterally, and pointed at the tip.

The anterior extremities are short and small, with four fingers, distinct, the

second and third longest. The posterior extremities are twice the size of the anterior, and terminate in five toes, distinct, the third and fourth longest.

COLOUR. The head is yellowish-brown above, and salmon-colour at the sides, with a very bright salmon-coloured line extending from the nostril to the superior part of the orbit of the eye. The upper jaw is pale salmon-colour, with a few brown spots; the lower is nearly white, or palest flesh-colour. The chin and throat are white. The upper surface of the body and tail is yellowish-brown, with greyish marks; the flanks and sides of the tail are salmon-colour, with a tinge of yellow; the thorax and abdomen are white; the under surface of the tail is pale salmon-colour. The anterior extremities are yellowish-brown above and clear white below; the posterior are of similar colour, both above and below.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 7 lines; length of body to vent, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail beyond the vent, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches: total, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

HABITS. But little is known of the habits of the *Salamandra salmonea*; it was first observed on land, in a moist situation, among the mountains of Vermont, by Dr. Binney, who kept it alive for nearly a year, feeding it on flies, which it devoured very greedily.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This Salamander seems peculiar to the mountainous parts of our country. Dr. Binney found it in Vermont; Dr. Dekay observed it in Essex county, New York; and M. Cabanis, a Prussian naturalist, procured me several specimens among the mountains of South Carolina.

GENERAL REMARKS. To my friend Dr. Storer, of Boston, I am indebted for the description of the *Salamandra salmonea*.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Salamandra salmonea – Storer." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 33–34. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326865>.

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