



Salamandra rubra.

On Stone by J^d Queen.

J. S. Duval, Lith. Phil^a.

SALAMANDRA RUBRA.—*Daudin*.*Plate IX.*

CHARACTERS. Head short; snout rounded; eyes prominent; body above red, with numerous small black points; flanks red, immaculate; abdomen orange-red, immaculate.

SYNONYMES. *Salamandra rubra*, *Daudin*, Hist. Nat. des Rept., tom. viii. p. 227, pl. xcii. fig. 2.

Salamandra rubra, *Latreille*, Hist. Nat. Rept., tom. iv. p. 305.

Salamandra rubriventris, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien. Philad., vol. i. p. 353.

Salamandra rubriventris, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 97.

Salamandra maculata, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien. Philad., vol. i. p. 350.

Salamandra maculata, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 96.

Salamandra sub-fusca, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien. Philad., vol. i. p. 351.

Salamandra fusca, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien., vol. i. p. 357.

Salamandra fusca, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 96.

DESCRIPTION. The head is rather large, with the snout rounded; the mouth is small; the tongue round, attached by a short pedicle, but is very movable. The palate is armed with a series of minute teeth that begin on each side behind, and without the posterior nares, which are very small; these run first inwardly, but do not meet in the middle of the palate, as they suddenly turn backwards in a longitudinal direction, the two series separating from each other more and more posteriorly.

The nostrils are antero-superior and near the snout. The eyes are prominent,

with the pupil black and the iris golden and large. The neck is not much contracted, and has a marked cutaneous fold at the throat.

The body is cylindrical and stout; the anterior extremities are small, and are furnished with four fingers; the posterior are larger, and have five toes, slightly palmated at their root. The tail is shorter than the body, thick at the root, but soon becomes tapering, ends in a point, and is compressed laterally.

COLOUR. The whole superior surface of the animal is red, with a few scattered black points about the head, and becoming very numerous along the back and tail; the flanks are brighter red and immaculate; the whole inferior surface of the animal is orange-red; the extremities are coloured like the flanks above, and like the abdomen below, but rather less bright.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 6 lines; length of body, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; length of tail, 2 inches: total length, 4 inches 9 lines. I have observed individuals of still greater dimensions.

HABITS. The *Salamandra rubra* is a land animal, and is found under rocks, fallen and decaying trees, &c., and preying on such small insects as inhabit the same localities. Dr. Green has also frequently seen it in the water, whither it doubtless repaired during the breeding season; and he observed that it was then much more lively and active than when met with on land.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This Salamander inhabits the Atlantic states from Massachusetts to Florida, inclusive; but I have no knowledge of its existence west of the Alleghany Mountains.

GENERAL REMARKS. Palisot de Beauvais was the first naturalist who observed this animal, which is certainly one of the most beautiful of our Salamanders; he found it under logs and in shady places in Pennsylvania, during his residence there.

Daudin, however, gave the first description of it, and this he accompanied with a tolerable figure; he is wrong, however, in supposing the abdomen to be marked with a dusky line.

I refer, without much hesitation, the *Salamandra sub-fusca* and *Salamandra maculata* of Green to the *Salamandra rubra*, although I have never had an opportunity of examining those animals, yet Dr. Pickering informs me that they are identical; and even Mr. Green was latterly in doubt whether they were distinct species.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Salamandra rubra – Daudin." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 35–37.
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