



Salamandra Haldemani

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P. S. Duval, Lith. Phil.

SALAMANDRA HALDEMANI.—*Holbrook.**Plate XVIII.*

CHARACTERS. Head flattened above; snout rounded; body and tail pale yellow above, slightly olive at the flanks, marked with dusky spots and blotches, disposed somewhat in three irregular longitudinal series.

DESCRIPTION. The head is of moderate size, a little flattened above, with the snout rounded. The mouth is small; the tongue is broad, sub-round, and attached by a broad, short pedicle. The palate is armed with a group of minute teeth, which begin on each side behind the posterior nares, run within and backwards, but do not meet in the mesial line; behind these, and in the middle of the palate, is a second group of minute teeth arranged in a longitudinal direction.

The nostrils are near the snout, lateral, but open a little upwards. The eyes are prominent and large, with the pupil dusky, and the iris bright yellow. The neck is contracted, with a slight transverse fold at the throat.

The body is cylindrical and slender; the anterior extremities are small, with four fingers; the posterior are much larger, and sustain five toes. The tail is longer than the body, slender and round, only a little compressed towards the tip.

COLOUR. The head and neck above are pale yellow; the lips are lighter, and the throat yellowish-white. The body above is straw-colour, tinged with olive at the flanks, and marked with numerous small dusky or brown blotches, variable in size, and disposed without much order; the largest, however, are on the flanks;

the throat is pale yellow; the abdomen is of similar colour, with its central portion strongly tinged with purple; the extremities are coloured like the back above, but with fewer and smaller dusky spots, and are yellow below.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 5 lines; length of body to vent, 1 inch 8 lines; length of tail, 1 inch 11 lines: total length, 4 inches.

HABITS. Little is known of the habits of the *Salamandra Haldemani*, except that it is a land animal, and is found under old logs and stones, &c.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This Salamander inhabits the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, from all of which I have received specimens, and it will doubtless be found much more widely extended when our herpetology shall be better known.

GENERAL REMARKS. My friend, S. S. Haldeman, Esq., of Pennsylvania, to whom I am indebted for much information on the habits of reptiles, was the first naturalist who observed this Salamander, and procured me a specimen from the borders of the Susquehanna river, and to him I have dedicated the species.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Salamandra haldemani – Holbrook." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 59–60. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326875>.

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