



Salamandra longicauda.

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SALAMANDRA LONGICAUDA.—*Green*.*Plate XIX.*

CHARACTERS. Head narrow; snout rather pointed; body elongated, lemon-coloured above, and marked with small, irregular, oblong, or round black spots; tail more than twice the length of body, compressed at the sides, and marked with transverse black bands.

SYNONYMES. *Salamandra longicauda*, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien. Philad., vol. i. p. 351.
Salamandra longicaudata, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 96.

DESCRIPTION. The head is short, and the snout obtuse; the mouth is of moderate size; the tongue is pediculated, oblong, and slightly notched posteriorly. The palate is armed with minute teeth, which begin on each side behind the inner margins of the posterior nares, and then run inwards and a little backwards to unite in the middle of the palate; a line and a half behind this transverse row begin two longitudinal series of teeth, which are continued in distinct groups to the end of the palate, and separate more and more from each other posteriorly.

The nostrils are lateral and near the snout. The eyes are small, but prominent, the pupil black and the iris golden. The chin and neck are smooth, with a strongly marked cuticular fold at the throat. The body is cylindrical, small and delicate. The tail is twice the length of the body, compressed at the sides, and exceedingly thin and slender.

The anterior extremities are rather long and slender; there are four delicate

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fingers, distinct, and all nearly of the same length. The posterior extremities are nearly twice the size of the anterior, with five distinct small toes.

COLOUR. The head is lemon-colour above, and the chin and throat nearly the same. The body above is of similar colour, with numerous small irregular black spots; the thorax and abdomen are yellowish-white. The tail is coloured like the back, but the black spots on it are lengthened into transverse bars. The anterior as well as the posterior extremities are similar in colour above to the back; below they are straw-colour.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 5 lines; of body to vent, 1 inch 10 lines; of tail beyond the vent, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches: total, 5 inches 10 lines.

HABITS. Dr. Harlan places this among the aquatic Salamanders; and Professor Green informs me that he has also observed this animal, which is one of the most beautiful of our Salamanders, in water, and that its motions are exceedingly graceful. There can be but little doubt, however, that it lives in general on land, as its whole organization, teeth, tongue, &c., all place it among the true Salamanders; besides, Haldeman assures me that he has found it on land and at a distance from water. Professor Green probably saw it in water during its breeding season, for he further remarked that it is found on land in marshy places.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. The *Salamandra longicauda* is found in most of the northern parts of the United States. Dr. Smith has seen it in Massachusetts; Professor Green has observed it near Albany, and at Princeton, New Jersey; and Dr. Pickering informs me that they are found in the neighbourhood of Pittsburgh, west of the Alleghany Mountains.

GENERAL REMARKS. This is another of our Salamanders observed and first described by Professor Green, of Philadelphia.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Salamandra longicauda – Green." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 61–62. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326876>.

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