



Salamandra 4-digitata.

J. Queen, del.

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

SALAMANDRA QUADRIDIGITATA.—*Holbrook.**Plate XXI.*

CHARACTERS. Head large; body long and slender; tail very long; fingers four; toes four.

DESCRIPTION. The head is very large for the size of the animal, with the snout full and rounded. The tongue is round, flattened, and sustained on a short pedicle. There are a few scattered exceedingly minute teeth just behind and between the posterior nares.

The nostrils are latero-anterior, and near the extremity of the snout. The eyes are large and prominent, with a dusky iris and a golden pupil. The neck is smaller than the head, with a narrow cutaneous fold at the throat.

The body is much elongated and cylindrical. The tail is very long, round, or is compressed only towards its tip. The anterior extremities are very small, and are provided with four minute fingers; the posterior are rather larger, with four toes, equally minute.

COLOUR. The whole animal above is pale straw-colour, with a few minute dark brown spots or vertebral lines; the flanks are marked with an irregular series of dark brown spots, sometimes approaching a lateral line; the abdomen is bluish silvery-white.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 4 lines; length of body, 1 inch; length of tail, 2 inches: total length, 3 inches 4 lines.

HABITS. The *Salamandra quadridigitata* is entirely a land animal. In general it remains concealed under fallen and decaying trees, and only ventures abroad after heavy rains or in the dusk of evening, in search of small insects, on which it feeds.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This Salamander is abundant in the middle section of our state, which must for the present be considered as its northern limit; hence it inhabits the intervening country to the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Couper and Dr. Harden have both furnished me with specimens from Georgia, and I have also received them from Florida.

GENERAL REMARKS. This animal bears some resemblance at first view to the *Salamandra gutto-lineata*, from which, however, it differs in many and important characters. This is the only one of our Salamanders with which I am acquainted that has four fingers and four toes, and from this circumstance is its specific name derived.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Salamandra quadridigitata – Holbrook." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 65–66. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326878>.

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