



Triton nigra

J. Quoy, del.

P. S. Duvoy, lith. Paris.

TRITON NIGER.—*Green*.

Plate XXVII.

*= dark specimen of
Triton propylus*

CHARACTERS. Body above black; abdomen purplish, with a few white spots; tail round at base, flattened and ancipital at tip.

SYNONYMES. *Salamandra nigra*, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien. Philad., vol. i. p. 352.

Salamandra intermixta, *Green*, Maclurian Lyceum, p. 5.

Salamandra picta, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 98.

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

DESCRIPTION. The head is small, with the snout rather pointed. The mouth is of moderate size. The tongue is sub-oval, thin, broadest behind, narrow and adherent in front, loose and most movable at its posterior margin. The palate is armed with a transverse group of minute teeth, and others are placed in a longitudinal direction along the mesial line.

The nostrils are small and latero-superior. The eyes are prominent, with a black pupil and dusky-grey iris. The neck is slightly contracted, and has a large transverse fold at the throat.

The body is stout and sub-cylindrical; the tail is thick and round at the root, but it soon becomes compressed, and is ancipital near the tip, which is pointed.

The anterior extremities are short, and sustain four fingers; the posterior are much larger, and terminate in five toes, slightly united at their bases.

COLOUR. The whole superior surface of the animal is black, with a slight bluish tinge. The throat and abdomen are purple. The young animals are often rather brown than black, with a few amber-coloured spots on the flanks.

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

HABITS. The *Triton niger* is entirely aquatic in its habits.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This animal inhabits the Atlantic states from lat. 43° to the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Pickering found it near Salem, in Massachusetts; Professor Green observed it in Pennsylvania; I have seen it in Carolina and Georgia, and have received specimens from Louisiana.

GENERAL REMARKS. Professor Green was the first naturalist who observed and described the *Triton niger* under the specific name it here bears.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Triton niger – Green." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 81–82.
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