



Triton ingens.

(Rogers Pinx^t

P.S. Euseb. Lith. Faint^o

TRITON INGENS.—*Green.**Plate XXIX.*

CHARACTERS. Head large, depressed; snout full and rounded; body bluish slate-colour, with light ash-coloured sub-ovate spots; tail large, broad, much compressed; fingers four, slightly palmated at roots; toes five, slightly palmated, external toe fimbriated, as in *Menopoma*.

SYNONYME. *Salamandra ingens*, *Green*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Scien. Philad., vol. vi. p. 254.

DESCRIPTION. The head is very large, rounded at the snout, and flattened above. The mouth is large; the tongue is broad, circular, extensively attached, and is only slightly movable at its anterior and lateral margins. The palatine teeth are arranged in three groups transversely, a small group behind the posterior nares, with a larger group occupying the middle of the palate.

The nostrils are antero-superior and very near the snout. The eyes are large and prominent, with a black pupil and dusky-grey iris.

The neck is contracted, and has a large transverse fold at the throat. The body is large and sub-cylindrical. The tail is stout, longer than the body, much compressed laterally, and terminates in a rounded extremity.

The anterior extremities are short, thick, and sustain four fingers, slightly palmated at their roots. The posterior extremities are much larger, and terminate in five toes, the external of which is fimbriated on its outer margin.

COLOUR. The whole animal above is bluish slate-colour, marked with irregularly sub-ovate pale ash-coloured blotches, disposed without order. The lips and throat are dark brown; the belly is slate-colour.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 1 inch; length of body to vent, 4 inches; length of tail, 5 inches: total length of the animal here described, 10 inches. I have seen one specimen more than 12 inches long.

HABITS. I know nothing of the habits of the *Triton ingens*, save that it is entirely an aquatic animal.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This reptile has as yet been observed only in our western waters. Professor Green received his first specimen from Louisiana; Professor Kirkland has since observed it in Ohio, and Professor Troost in Tennessee; and to him am I indebted for the accompanying plate, which was done from life.

GENERAL REMARKS. Professor Green was the first naturalist who observed this animal, and he describes it under the appropriate specific name *ingens*, as it is in fact the largest of all our Salamandroidea.

TRIBE II. IMMUTABILIA.

CHARACTERS.

I. The animals of this tribe undergo no metamorphosis, but come into life with the forms they are permanently to retain.

II. The body is elongated and cylindrical.

III. The tail is long, round, or compressed, and sometimes ancipital.

IV. The extremities vary in number; in some there are four, (Menopoma,) in others only two, (Siren.)

REMARKS. This tribe of reptiles embraces some of our most remarkable species, as the Siren, Lacertina, Menobranhus, Lateralis, &c. Fitzinger has again subdivided this tribe into two families, each of which includes two or more genera.

FAMILY I. CRYPTOBRANCHOIDEA.

CHARACTERS.

The reptiles of this family are destitute of gills at all periods of their existence, and breathe by means of exposed spiracles or branchial orifices at the neck.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Triton ingens – Green." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 85–87.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326886>.

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