



*Siren intermedia*

*Thos. M. Logan, M.D. pinx.*

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SIREN INTERMEDIA.—*Leconte.**Plate XXXV.*

CHARACTERS. Head rather small, flattened; snout small and rounded; neck contracted; spiracles concealed by a fleshy trilobate operculum, smooth above, reticulated and fringed below; colour dusky, approaching to bluish-black.

SYNONYMES. *Siren intermedia*, *Leconte*, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., vol. i. p. 53.

*Siren intermedia*, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 89.

*Siren intermedia*, *Wagler*, Natürlich. Syst. der Amphib., p. 310.

DESCRIPTION. The head is sub-oval and rather small, with the frontal region depressed, and the snout small, rounded and not truncated as in the *Siren lacertina*. The mouth is small; the tongue is small, arrow-shaped, though rather rounded in front, and is only free at its tip, and for a short distance at its anterior and lateral margins; the teeth are very minute.

The nostrils are latero-anterior. The eyes are small, black, and covered with cuticle, as in the eel. The neck is contracted, and the spiracles or branchial orifices are concealed by a fleshy trilobate covering on each side, which is smooth above, but reticulated and fimbriated below; and this net work seems to be made up of minute filaments resembling the fimbriated gills of the *Siren lacertina*.

The body is eel-shaped. The tail is thick at its root, but soon becomes laterally compressed, and towards the tip is ancipital, with a narrow rayless fin above and below. The anterior extremities, which alone exist, are small, short,



and terminate each in four short unarmed fingers, of which the external is very minute.

COLOUR. The whole superior surface of the animal is dusky, approaching to bluish-black; beneath it is tinged with purple.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head in the specimen above described, 8 lines; length of body to vent, 6 inches; length of tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches: total length, 9 inches 2 lines.

HABITS. The *Siren intermedia* frequents swamps and rice-field ditches, like the *Siren lacertina*; but of the nature of its food I can say nothing.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. This reptile inhabits Georgia and South Carolina; Leconte observed it in the former, and Dr. Blanding in the latter state.

GENERAL REMARKS. Leconte was the first naturalist who observed this animal, and described it under the specific name it here bears.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Siren intermedia – Leconte." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 107–108. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326892>.

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