



Siren striata

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SIREN STRIATA.—*Leconte.**Plate XXXVI.*

CHARACTERS. Head small, depressed; snout rather pointed; colour above dusky, with a broad yellow stripe on each side, and another stripe still paler below; abdomen speckled brownish-white.

SYNONYMES. *Siren striata*, *Leconte*, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., vol. i. p. 54, pl. 4.

Siren striata, *Harlan*, Med. and Phys. Res., p. 88.

Siren striata, *Wagler*, Naturlich. Syst. der Amphib., p. 310.

DESCRIPTION. The head is small, sub-oval, flattened, with the snout rather pointed. The mouth is small; the tongue is small, arrow-shaped, and pointed in front, free only at its tip, and for a short distance along its anterior and lateral margins.

The nostrils are anterior. The eyes are lateral, and rather large for a *Siren*, and are of a dusky-grey colour. The neck is contracted but slightly, and has a single spiracle on each side, concealed by three fleshy prolongations, with fimbriated edges, the anterior very small.

The body is eel-shaped. The tail is long in proportion, thick, and rounded at its root, but is soon compressed laterally, and is ancipital near its tip, though hardly furnished with a rayless fin, as in the two last species. The anterior extremities, which alone exist, are very small, and terminate each in three minute unarmed fingers.

COLOUR. The whole animal is dusky-brown above, with a yellow band or stripe on each side, and a second band of paler colour below; the "abdomen is speckled greyish-white."

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 7 lines; length of body to vent, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of tail, 2 inches: total length, 6 inches 1 line.

HABITS. The *Siren striata* does not seem to differ much in its habits from the *Siren lacertina*, it seeks the same localities and the same food. Leconte, however, says they do not burrow in mud, but swim constantly in water, and die soon if removed from it; yet the recent observations of Dr. Harden of Riceborough, in Georgia, prove that they are often found in soft mud.

GENERAL REMARKS. It is again to that accurate naturalist Leconte that we are indebted for a knowledge of this beautiful reptile.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Siren striata – Leconte." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 5, 109–110. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326893>.

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