

Key to the Stream Salamanders of Maryland

1a. External gills present.

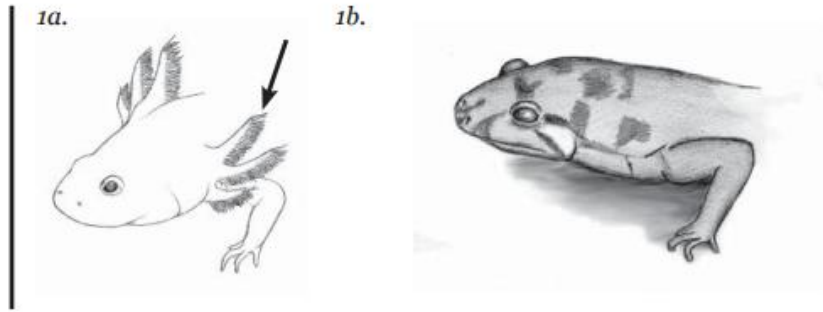
Aquatic larvae

1b. No external gills present.

Adult salamanders. **Go to 2**

1a. External gills

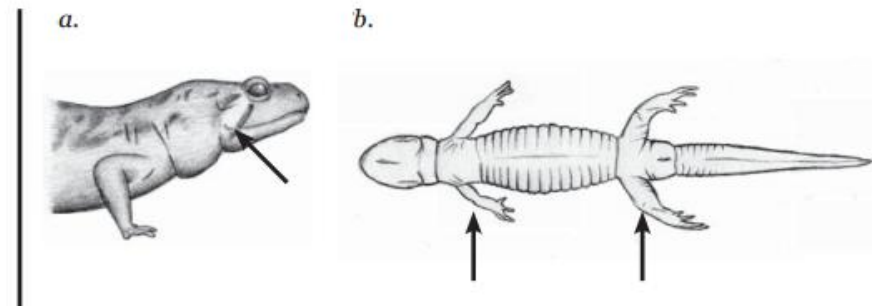
1b. No external gills



2a. Rear limbs (hind legs) obviously larger and fatter than front limbs. Pale diagonal line from eye to the mouth.

a. Pale diagonal line from eye to angle of jaw

b. Rear limbs conspicuously larger than front limbs



(*Desmognathus*) **Go to 3**

2b. Rear limbs not conspicuously larger than front limbs; no pale diagonal line from eye to mouth.

Go to 5

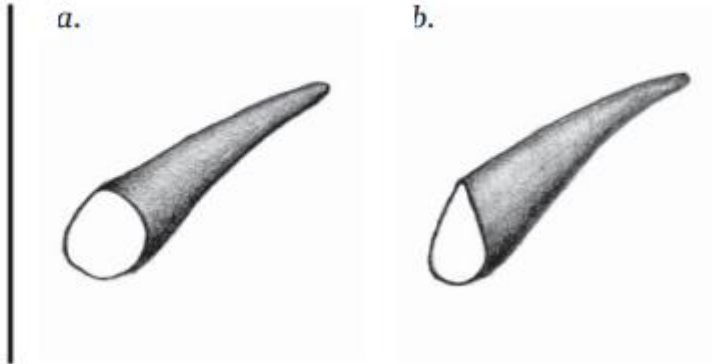
3a. Midpoint of the tail is rounded or oval in cross section. A keel (or ridge along the top of the tail) is absent. Adults are brownish and can have a widely variable coloration pattern. Usually, it has a light stripe down the back, with a row of dark spots on the center and a row of blotchy darker spots along their sides.

Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander
(*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*)

3b. The midpoint of the tail is at least somewhat triangular in cross section. A keel, or ridge running along the top of the tail is present on lower half of the tail (furthest from the body). Adults are often longer than 10 cm.

a. Midpoint of tail rounded or oval in cross-section

b. Midpoint of tail somewhat triangular in cross-section



Go to 4

4a. Toes tipped with dark grey or black friction pads; belly whitish to light gray with no spots; back often marked with bold, dark, wormy squiggle marks or spots on a lighter background color. The tail has a keel or ridge line almost all the way to the body but rounded near the base.

Seal Salamander
(*Desmognathus monticola*)

4b. Toe tips lacking friction pads and appear white or light gray; belly cream-colored, with varying amounts of brown splotches or mottling. The back is often obviously blotchy or striped and if unblotched, then covered in a brown color. Has a very short keel on only a little bit of the tail.

Northern Dusky Salamander
(*Desmognathus fuscus*)

5a. Dorsal (back) coloration is yellowish or brown; body slender.

(*Eurycea*) **Go to 6**

5b. Dorsal (back) coloration is a red, salmon, or orange with dark spots; body stout.

Go to 7

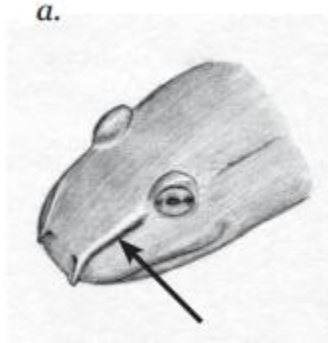
6a. Tail longer than 50% of salamander's total length. Back bordered by blotchy/mottled bands on the sides of the animal. Tail with herringbone pattern along the sides.

Long-tailed Salamander
(*Eurycea longicauda longicauda*)

6b. Tail less than 50% of total length; back with a yellow brown to yellowish orange stripe bordered by a solid, dark stripe on each side of the salamander. This stripe travels the length of the animal from its eye well into onto its tail.

Two-lined Salamander
(*Eurycea bislineata*)

7a. Snout is squarish with a light line bordered by gray or black extending from eye to nostril.



Northern Spring Salamander
(*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus porphyriticus*)

7b. Snout rounded. There is no light line extending from eye to nostril.



(Pseudotriton) **Go to 8**

8a. Eyes brown or black, color on sides and belly are sharply contrasted. Back is widely scattered with black spots. Spots do NOT run together.

Eastern Mud Salamander
(*Pseudotriton montanus montanus*)

8b. Eyes gold or yellow; colors on sides and belly blend together; back is covered with numerous black spots which sometimes run together.

Northern Red Salamander
(*Pseudotriton ruber ruber*)