

Taxonomic Key Salamander Identification

Examine the diagram of the salamander sample. Read statements 1a and 1b in the classification key below. One of these statements describes the salamander; the other statement does not. Follow the directions in the statement that describes the salamander and continue following the correct statement and directions until the salamander has been identified.

1.
 - a. Hind limbs absent ***Siren intermedia***, siren
 - b. Hind limbs present Go to 2
2.
 - a. External gills present in adults ***Necturus maculosus***, mud puppy
 - b. External gills absent in adults..... Go to 3
3.
 - a. Large size (over 7 cm long) Go to 4
 - b. Small size (under 7 cm long) Go to 5
4.
 - a. Body background black, large white spots irregular in size and shape completely covering body and tail ***Ambystoma tigrinum***, tiger salamander
 - b. Body background black, small round white spots in a row along each side from eye to tip of tail ***Ambystoma maculatum***, spotted salamander
5.
 - a. Body background black with white spots Go to 6
 - b. Body background light color with dark spots and/or lines on body Go to 7
6.
 - a. Small white spots on a black background in a row along each side from head to tip of tail ***Ambystoma jeffersonianum***, Jefferson salamander
 - b. Small white spots scattered throughout a black background from head to tip of tail ***Plethodon glutinosus***, slimy salamander
7.
 - a. Large irregular black spots on a light background extending from head to tip of tail ***Ambystoma opacum***, marbled salamander
 - b. No large irregular black spots on a light background Go to 8
8.
 - a. Round spots scattered along back and sides of body, tail flattened like a tadpole ***Triturus viridescens***, newt
 - b. Without round spots and tail not flattened like a tadpole Go to 9
9.
 - a. Two dark lines bordering a broad light middorsal stripe with a narrow median dark line extending from the head onto the tail..... ***Eurycea bislineata***, two-lined salamander
 - b. Without two dark lines running the length of the body Go to 10
10.
 - a. A light stripe running the length of the body and bordered by dark pigment extending downward on the sides..... ***Plethodon cinereus***, red-backed salamander
 - b. A light stripe extending the length of the body, a marked constriction at the base of the tail ***Hemidactylum scutatium***, four-toed salamander

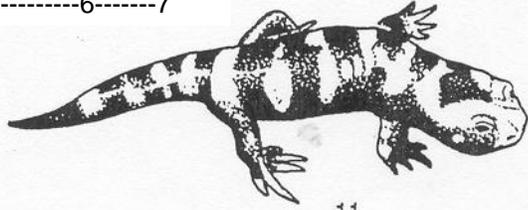
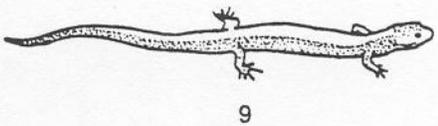
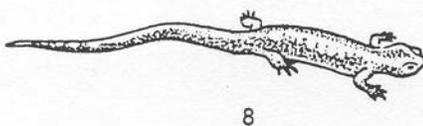
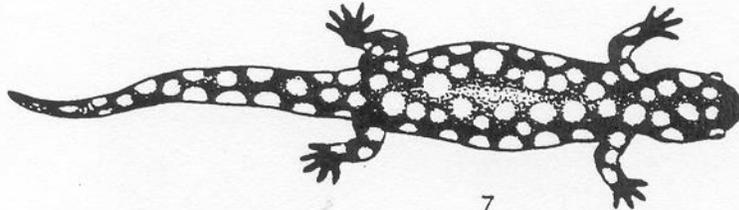
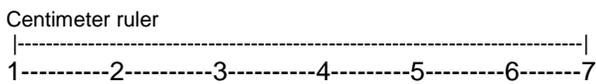
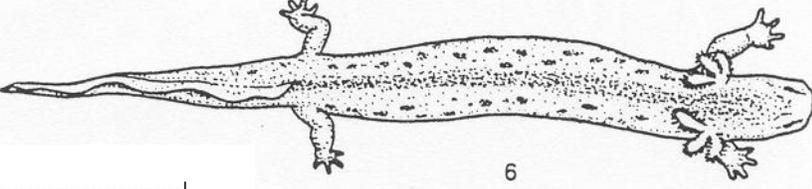
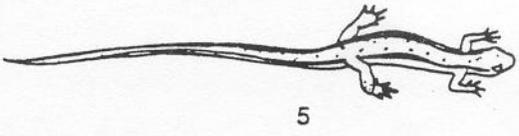
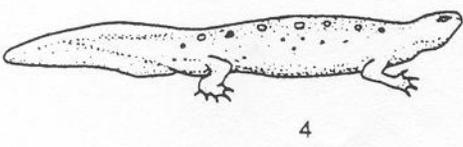
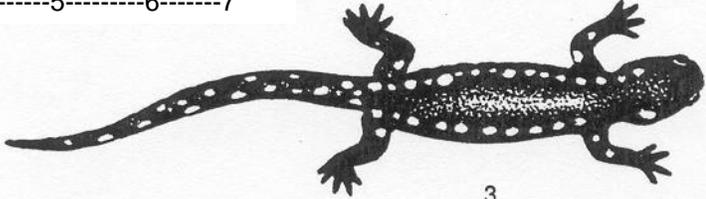
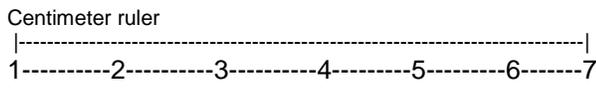
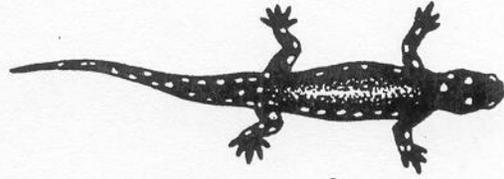
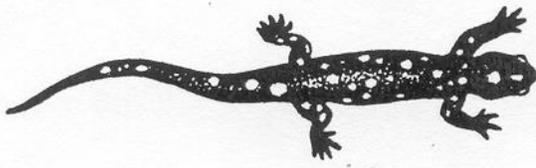


Figure 1