**Advanced Tremont Salamander Key**



**1** No gills on neck................................................................................................................................................................................................**Go to ADULTS (2)**

Gills on neck (Picture 1 - gills are TINY and sometimes not visible unless the salamander is viewed in water).............................**Go to LARVAE (10, on back)**

**ADULTS**

**2** Body brown or black overall (may have light stripes or spots but most of body is dark colored)………………….….............................................................**Go to 3**

Body light colored: yellowish, golden, or red (may have dark stripes or spots but most of body is light colored)……....................................................**Go to 7**

**3** Darkish body overall, may have green to grayish mottling on back or faint to distinct red-orange spots or stripe on back...........................................**Go to 4**

Not as above, body appears pinkish to deep purple with black speckles........................................................................................................................**Go to** **6**

Dark black body with pinprick white spots all over body, **RARELY found in streams**…………………………..……………..…...**Slimy Salamander** *(Plethodon glutinosus)*

**4** Each side has **two separate rows of evenly spaced white pinprick spots, with the spots in both rows being the same size** (Picture 3A), undersides often

blackish (especially larger individuals) or with light-grayish splotches (often on smaller individuals), head big and fat-looking, back mottled with brown and/or green (not in defined spots),tail very keeled (ridge on top of the tail, or a tall and flattail)….....................**Black-bellied Salamander** *(Desmognathus quadramaculatus)*

 Spots on side not present, or not in two rows with spots of equal size...........................................**Dusky salamander species** (Genus *Desmognathus*)**, Go to 5**

**5** Sides each have **one main row of larger white spots on a field of small white speckles**, with a sharp rather than gradual transition between the darker

back and lighter undersides (Picture 3B); undersides pearly white, sometimes with dark speckles; sometimes 4-5 pairs of orange spots located on back between front and rear legs (Picture 4A); head narrow and long-snouted; back third of tail keeled…………….…**Seal Salamander** *(D. monticola)*

 Sides have less of a distinct row of spots and more of a gradual color change than above (Picture 3C), undersides pale with white speckles, sometimes

5-8 pairs of orange spots located on back between front and rear legs (Picture 4B), tail only weakly keeled, **RARELY found in our streams (they live in seeps)**....................................................................................................................................................**Spotted Dusky Salamander** *(D. conanti)*

**6** Red-orange, purple, or brownish with black speckles over back, **dark lines from eyes to nostrils**,

 tail keeled (ridge on top of the tail, or a tall and flat tail)........................................................................**Spring Salamander** *(Gyrinophilus porphyriticus)*

Reddish to bright red, sometimes deep purple to blackish; with black speckles all over body; **black chin;**

 **eyes yellow or golden** (NOT brown)......................................................................................................................**Red Salamander** *(Pseudotriton ruber)*

**7** Body yellowish or golden, long and slender...................................................................................................................................................................**Go to 8**

Body reddish...................................................................................................................................................................................................................**Go to 9**

**ADULTS (Continued)**

**8** Two solid, dark stripes down the back......................................................................................................**Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander** *(Eurycea wilderae)*

Tail may be up to twice as long as rest of body, scattered black spots all over,

 **usually found away from streams under rocks or logs**...........................................................................**Long-tailed Salamander** *(Eurycea longicauda)*

**9** Red-orange, purple, or brownish with black speckles over back; **dark lines from eyes to nostrils**;

 tail keeled (ridge on top of the tail, or a tall and flat tail)........................................................................**Spring Salamander** *(Gyrinophilus porphyriticus)*

Reddish to bright red, sometimes deep purple to blackish, with black speckles all over body; **black chin;**

 **eyes yellow or golden** (NOT brown)......................................................................................................................**Red Salamander** *(Pseudotriton ruber)*

**LARVAE**

**10** Tips of toes have **black friction pads** when seen from below (Picture 2) ......................................**Black-bellied Salamander** *(Desmognathus quadramaculatus)*

Tips of toes same color as rest of toe and foot..............................................................................................................................................................**Go to 13**

**11 Rounded snout (Picture 5A)**, spots on back larger and darker instead of small and white, gills (Picture 1) are like fingers (most obvious part is central support of gills) rather than feathery plumes and are white or pale (NOT reddish)…………...**Unidentified Dusky Salamander** *(Desmognathus* species*)*

**Snout with corners (Picture 5B)**, gills (Picture 1) like feathery plumes and sometimes reddish,

tail may be especially keeled (vertically flattened tail)………………………………………………………………………………………….....….……………………...…….**Go to 14**

**12** Usually shorter than 35 mm in length............................................................................................................................................................................**Go to 15**

Usually longer than 35 mm in length, gills very red, pores on face................................................................................................................................**Go to 16**

**13** Six to nine pairs of small white spots down the back................................................................................**Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander** *(Eurycea wilderae)*

No spots on back (**yet to be found in Walker Valley Streams**).............................................................................**Long-tailed Salamander** *(Eurycea longicauda)*

**14** Bright red gills; body pinkish to light brown, sometimes with light speckles on back;

head and corners of snout somewhat rectangular.................................................................................**Spring Salamander** *(Gyrinophilus porphyriticus)*

 Bright red gills; body darker brown to red, often with black speckles on back;

head and corners of snout more rounded………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**Red Salamander** *(Pseudotriton ruber)*