

Guide to Salamander Larvae Found During Surveys for Flatwoods Salamanders in Florida

Common



Flatwoods Salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*)

Size: 0.4–3.0 in. (10–75 mm)

Hatchlings are dark brown above and pale brown below but soon develop a yellow to gold vertebral stripe flanked by dark dorsolateral stripes; older larvae have a pale tan vertebral stripe and 1 or 2 pale cream lateral stripes bordered by wide, dark stripes; vivid, dark stripes on head extend from the snout through the eyes to the base of the bushy gills; unpigmented belly



Dwarf Salamander adult (*Eurycea quadridigitata*)

Size: 0.3–2.0 in. (7–50 mm)

Hatchlings are uniformly grayish brown above and unpatterned below, but the color pattern of older larvae resembles adults; dorsal fin begins in middle of back and tail fin has a netted pattern (visible in plastic bag); slender enough to go through the mesh of a net



Central Newt adult (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)

Size: 0.3–2.2 in. (7–55 mm)

Hatchlings have balancers and are yellowish green with 2 broad, dark stripes on each side; mature larvae are light brown to yellowish brown above with slender bodies and blunt snouts; a conspicuous dark stripe extends from the snout through the eyes; high tail fin

Occasional



Mole Salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*)

Size: 0.4–2.6 in. (10–65 mm)

Hatchlings have bold, alternating black and yellow blotches on the back and top of the tail fin; older larvae have 2 conspicuous cream or dull yellow stripes on each side that become blotches near the tail; **dark stripe along the midline of the belly**

Eastern Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)

Size: 0.5–4.8 in. (13–123 mm)

Hatchlings have paired blotches along the back and an unpigmented belly; older larvae are dull green to dusky colored above and white beneath, often with black dorsal spotting

Northern Dwarf Siren (*Pseudobranchius striatus*)

Size: adults < 6 in. (150 mm)

Adults have 3-toed forelimbs but no hind limbs; dark dorsal coloration and parallel yellow or tan stripes extend from the head to the tail tip along the back and sides



Eastern Lesser Siren (*Siren intermedia*)

Size: > 0.4 in. (11 mm)

Hatchlings have elongated bodies with a broad, dark band with a streak in the middle on each side; small juveniles have a triangular yellow to red patch on the snout that often extends to the gills, and some have a colorful transverse band across the back of the head

Greater Siren (*Siren lacertina*)

Size: > 0.6 in. (16 mm)

Hatchlings have pale gray backs with a light yellow stripe down each side of the body that is later lost; 4-toed forelimbs but no hind limbs; prominent dorsal and tail fins

Two-toed Amphiuma (*Amphiuma means*)

Size: 2.2–2.8 in. (55–70 mm)

Hatchlings have long, filamentous gills that last only about a week; black body with a tan belly and grayish throat; 4 small limbs with 2 toes on the front feet