

SALAMANDERS & NEWTS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST

Does the salamander have...

- bumpy, rough skin *and*
- a bright orange belly?

Roughskin Newt

Taricha granulosa

- Lives in forests near water, or in wetlands.
- Breeds in ditches, ponds and wetlands.
- Bright orange colour alerts predators: "I am toxic, do not touch!"

NO



Thick, bumpy skin



- a plump body *and*
- large bumps (glands) behind the eyes?

Northwestern Salamander

Ambystoma gracile

- Lives in water or moist habitats everywhere.
- Breeds in still or slow moving water.
- Can retain gills as adults.

NO



Large glands behind the eyes



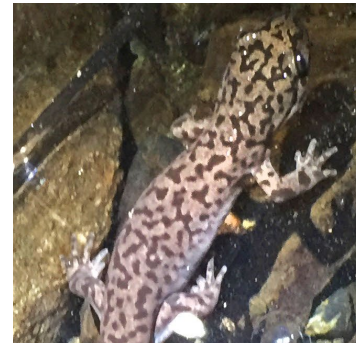
- a very long, thick body *and*
- mottled skin?

Coastal Giant Salamander

Dicamptodon tenebrosus **SPECIES AT RISK**

- Found only in Chilliwack River watershed.
- Mostly lives and breeds in forested habitats with cool, clear mountain streams.
- Can be found washed downstream in valley bottom ditches.

NO



- a translucent pinkish brown body *and*
- the base of its tail pinched?

Common Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii

- Lives and breeds on land in moist, shady forests – no aquatic or larval form.
- Found in and around decaying wood or moist rodent burrows.

NO



Pinched base of tail



Photo: Elke Wind

SALAMANDERS & NEWTS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST - continued from front

Does the salamander have...

- a thick, smooth stripe ranging from green to red down its back *and*
- a flat body and tail?

Western Redback Salamander

Plethodon vehiculum

- Lives and breeds on land in moist, shady forests – no aquatic or larval form.
- Found under rocks and fallen wood or leaf litter.



NO

Check for smooth edges on stripe

- a green to dark yellow jagged-edged stripe down its back *and*
- a tail that narrows on the top?

Long-toed Salamander

Ambystoma macrodactylum

- Lives in forests and moist habitats.
- Has long fourth toe on each hind foot.
- Breeds in ponds and wetlands.



NO

Check for irregular edges on stripe

- Is it a salamander-like creature with scaly skin? You may have found a reptile called an **Alligator Lizard**

(Elgaria coerulea principis)



Size comparison

Typical Adult Size



- Common Ensatina
- Western Redback Salamander
- Long-toed Salamander



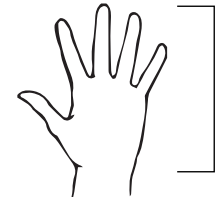
- Roughskin Newt



- Northwestern Salamander



- Coastal Giant Salamander



Average Adult Hand

If you find a salamander, do not relocate it. It is illegal to move or harm salamanders under the BC Wildlife Act. Transporting salamanders can spread disease, causing significant harm to native wildlife.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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