

Note:

MAXIMUM SIZES FOR AMBYSTOMATID SALAMANDERS. — The literature contains several articles concerning maximum sizes for ambystomatid salamanders. Langebartel (1946) described a "giant" *Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum* adult having a total length of 330 mm which Smith (1949) referred to as a record not only for *A. tigrinum* but for all nonfossil terrestrial salamanders. This was surpassed subsequently by an adult *A. tigrinum* measuring 346 mm in total length which Smith and Reese (1968) called a record size. More recently, Nussbaum and Clothier (1973) reported finding a neotenic *Dicamptodon ensatus* larva having a total length of 351 mm which they considered to be the "longest reported nonfossil, ambystomatid salamander." But studies of neotenic *Ambystoma tigrinum diaboli* larvae in Devils Lake, North Dakota (Larson, 1968, 1972) have shown that even larger ambystomatids exist. Among 517 neotenes subsampled from a collection of approximately 6000 individuals, the largest specimen measured 385 mm in total length (snout to tip of tail). Minimum and mean total lengths for the subsample were 194 mm and 256 mm, respectively. In view of the relatively small sample size as compared to the enormously large salamander population inhabiting the lake — numbering perhaps in the millions — Devils Lake neotenes larger than 385 mm may surely exist.

LITERATURE CITED

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