**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Salamander Dichotomous Key:**

**\**shortened and modified version for clarity. You must do the other sections of the original handout, if given in class***



Start with salamander 1 and read statements starting with 1a and 1b. Only one of these statements is true for each salamander. Continue reading through the list and on a separate sheet of paper numbered 1-11, identify the scientific and common name of each salamander.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 8 cm long Go to 4 |
| **b** Small size, under 8 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 salmander |
| **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 *Hemidactylium scutatum*, four-toed salamander |