**AMPHIBIA: CAUDATA: PLETHODONTIDAE**

**Hemidactylium scutatum** (Schlegel)

Four-toed salamander

*Salam.
andra* scutata Schlegel in Temminck, Schlegel, & de Haan [1833-1850], 1838:118. Type-locality "Nashville, Tenn." [=Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee]. Holotype not known to exist. Collector unknown.

**Hemidactylium scutatum**: Tschudi, 1838:55. Transfer of *S. scutata* Schlegel [etc.] to *Hemidactylium*.

**Desmodactylus scutatus**: Duméril, Bibron, & Duméril, 1854:118. Transfer of *S. scutata* Schlegel [etc.] to *Desmodactylus*.

**Batrachoseps scutatus**: Bouleniger, 1859:59. Transfer of *S. scutata* Schlegel [etc.] to *Batrachoseps*.

**Salamandra melanosticta** Gibbs, 1884:89, plate 10. Type-locality "Abbeville, S. C." [=Abbeville, Abbeville County, South Carolina]. Holotype not known to exist. Collector unknown. Junior synonym of *S. scutata* Schlegel [etc.]

**Desmodactylus melanostictus**: Duméril, Bibron, & Duméril, 1854:119. Transfer of *S. melanosticta* Gibbs to *Desmodactylus*.

- **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized at present.

- **DEFINITION.** Adult females about 75, and adult males about 65 mm in total length. Costal grooves number 13 or 14. The dorsum is reddish-brown, becoming grayish laterally; the venter is bluish-white (now unpigmented), with distinct, irregular, black flecks.

- **DESCRIPTIONS.** Mature eggs and nesting habits have been described by Bishop (1920, 1943:309), Blanchard (1922, 1923, 1934c, 1936) Dunn (1926:196), and Wood (1925, 1926:309); larvae by Bishop (1920, 1943:309-310), and Dunn (1926:47, 61); adults have been described by Bishop (1920, 1943:309), Blanchard (1923), and Dunn (1926:47, 61); venter is bluish-white; the dorsum coming grayish laterally; the venter is bluish-white; the venter is bluish-white.

- **ETYMOLGY.** The specific name *scutatum* signifies "covered with shieldlike plates," from Latin *scutatus*.

**Hemidactylium scutatum** distribution is limited to areas that provide both habitats in close proximity.

See Conant (1960), Neill (1967b), and Smith (1957) on the possible biogeographic significance of the disjunct populations.

- **REMARKS.** Tschudi's 1838 preprint has been confused with his 1840 journal article. Tschudi's description of *Hemidactylium scutatum* and Schlegel's of *Salam. scutata*, both appeared probably in September 1838. However, Tschudi, in a letter written no later than August 1837 (printed in Leonard & Bronn's *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie*, *et al.* 1837, pt. 5, Sept., pp. 545-547), indicates that he had already seen (perhaps in proof?) the work in which Schlegel's description appeared. Thus Tschudi in 1838 was not erecting the specific name *scutatum*, but was merely transferring Schlegel's *S. scutata* to the new genus *Hemidactylium*.

**Cope** (1899:99) gave the following reference: "*Salamandra scutata* Schlegel, Mus. Leyden Abbildungen, t. 40, f. 4, 6, 1837." This implies a usage of the name earlier than that in the Fauna Japonica. However, the aforesaid Abbildung actually appeared in 1839.

- **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific name *scutatum* signifies "covered with shieldlike plates," from Latin *scutatus*.
"armed with a shield" (Latin sectum, "a shield"). The salamander's costal grooves produce a superficial resemblance to overlapping plates.

**COMMENT**

The existence of subspeciation has not been reported. Georgia specimens have relatively large black spots on the venter, as compared with more northerly material.

**LITERATURE CITED**


Bishop, Sherman B. 1943a. Late autumn collections and hibernating situations of the salamander Hemidactylium scutatum (Schlegel). Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Schlegel) in southern Michigan. Copeia, 1943:245. [Although dated 27 December 1932 this publication was not distributed until 1943.]

1943b. The spring migration of the four-toed salamander Hemidactylium scutatum. Ibid., 1943:137-138.

1943c. The relation of the female four-toed salamander to her nest. Ibid., 1943:137-138.


1926. The salamanders of the family Plethodontidae, Smith College Centennial Publ, Northampton, Massachusetts. vii + 441 pp.


Temminck, C. J., H. Schlegel, & W. de Haan. 1833-1856. Siebold's Fauna Japonica sive descriptio animalium, quae in Henric per Japoniam a tepidis 1823-30 collegit, notis, observationibus et adumbrationibus illustravit Ph. Fr. de Siebold. Conjugatis studiis C. J. Temminck et H. Schlegel pro vertebratis atque W. de Haan pro invertebratis elaborata. Leipzig. 6 vols. [The "Reptilia" of the Fauna Japonica was issued in three parts. Part III Saurii et Batrachi (pp. 85-144, plates 1-5), by Temminck & Schlegel, and which included the latter's description of Salam. sectata (p. 119), was dated January 1838, but appeared probably in September of that year. The volume also included prefatory remarks by Philippo F. de Siebold.]


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[Further details and references are provided in the text, including sources for the preparation of the salamander's illustrations and the distribution of the species.]