

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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A SALAMANDER NEW TO THE DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

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I wish to place on record the capture of a species of *Ambystoma* additional to those enumerated in Prof. W. P. Hay's "List of the Batrachia and Reptiles of the District of Columbia" (Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, XV, 1902, pp. 121-145), viz: *Ambystoma maculatum* (Shaw). A large specimen was caught at Twining City, D. C. on Oct. 19, 1902, by Mr. A. E. Thorn, and is now in the National Museum (No. 30,906).

*Ambystoma maculatum* is usually known as *A. punctatum* (Linnaeus), being the *Lacerta punctata* of the twelfth edition of the Systema Naturæ. This name was preoccupied by Linnaeus himself in the tenth edition for a true lizard, now known as *Riopa punctata*. Its use is therefore precluded. The next name in time is Bechstein's *Salamandra palustris*, but this name was also preoccupied the year previously by Schneider for the female yellow-spotted Salamander of Europe. Shaw's *Lacerta maculata* is the next name in time, and is apparently not preoccupied. These names are absolutely equivalent, being all based on Catesby's "Car. 3, p. 10, t. 10, f. 10." The synonymy of this species, consequently, will stand as follows:

**Ambystoma maculatum** (Shaw).

1766. *Lacerta punctata* Linnæus, Syst. Nat., 12 ed., I, p. 370 (type loc. "Carolina") (not of 1758).
1800. *Salamandra palustris* Bechstein in Lacépède's Naturg. Amphib., II, p. 544 (substitute name) (not of Schneider 1799).
1802. *Lacerta maculaa* Shaw, Gen. Zool., III, i, p. 304 (substitute name).
1803. *Salamandra venenosa* Daudin, Hist. Nat. Rept., VIII, p. 229 (type loc. "near Philadelphia").
1804. *Lacerta subviolacea* Barton, Amer. Philos. Trans., VI, i, p. 109, pl. iv, fig. 6 (type loc. "a few miles from the city of Philadelphia").
1850. *Ambystoma carolinæ* Gray, Cat. Batr. Grad. Brit. Mus., p. 35 (substitute name).
1854. *Ambystome argus* Duméril and Bibron, Erpét. Gén., IX, p. 103 (substitute name).
1854. *Salamandra margaritifera* MS. Mus. Paris, fide Duméril and Bibron, op. cit. p. 105.

This salamander has costal grooves as indicated for *Ambystoma opacum*, by Professor Hay in his "Key to the species of *Caudata*," but the two species may be distinguished easily by their color alone, *Ambystoma opacum* being black with bluish gray cross-bars above, while *A. maculatum* is black with one series of large rounded yellow spots on each side of the back.

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