

Taxonomic Structures and Glossary of Terms Referenced in Georgia's Protected Reptile and Amphibian Accounts

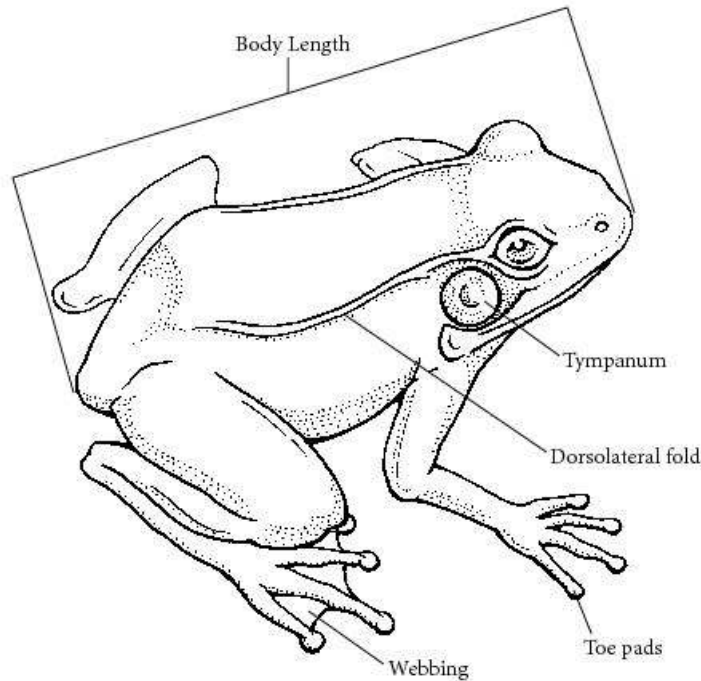


Figure 1. Identifying features and measurements of frogs. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

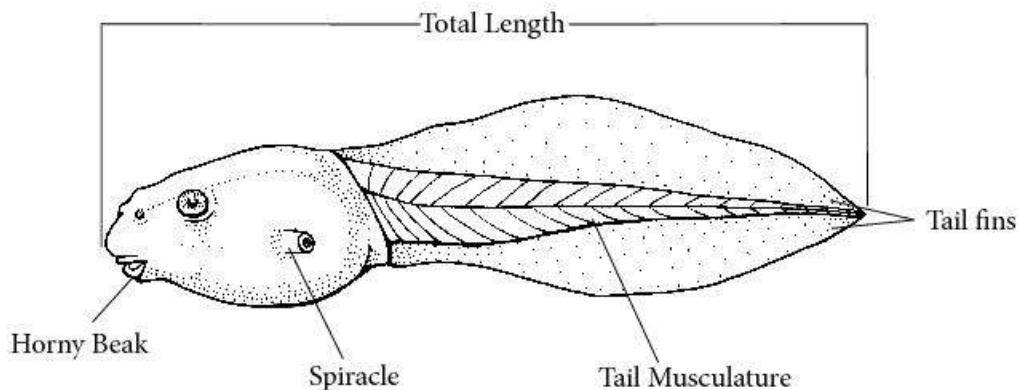


Figure 2. Identifying features and measurements of tadpoles. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

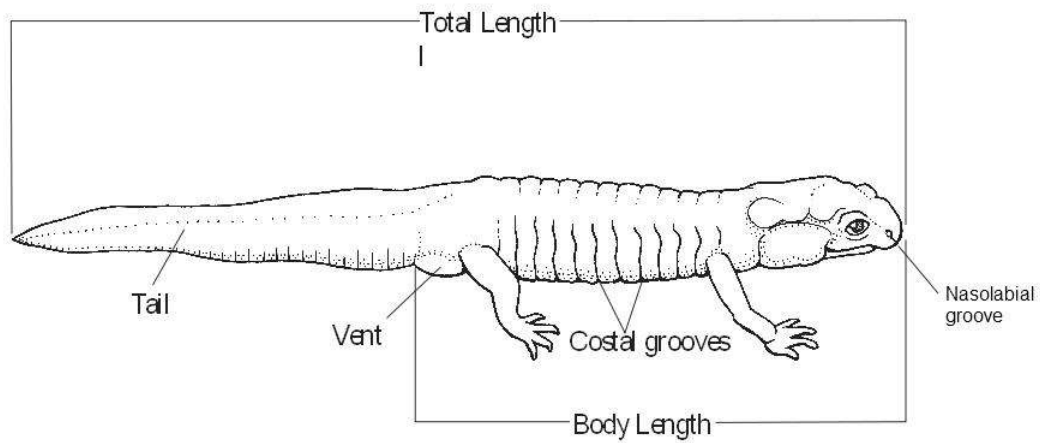


Figure 3. Identifying features and measurements of adult salamanders. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

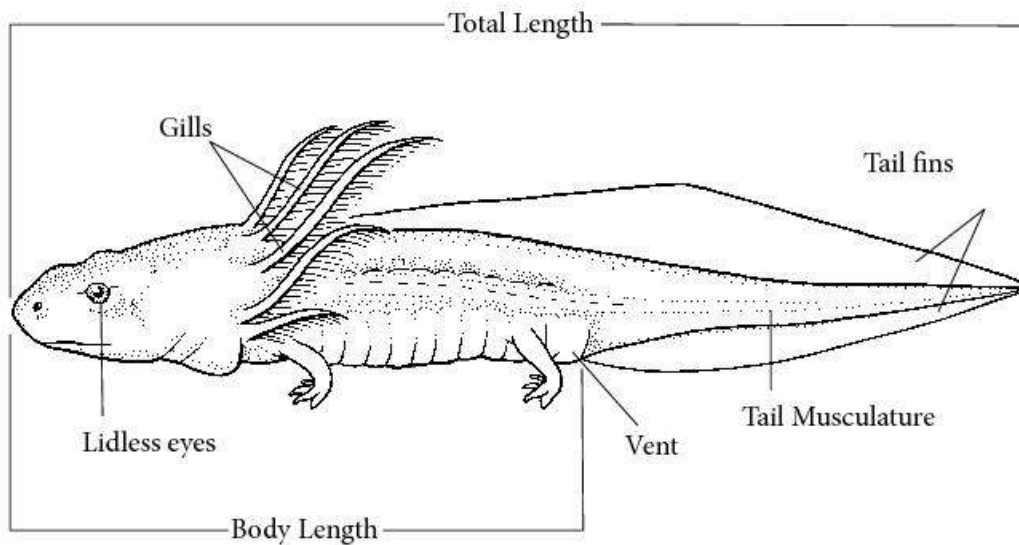


Figure 4. Identifying features and measurements of larval and paedomorphic adult salamanders. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

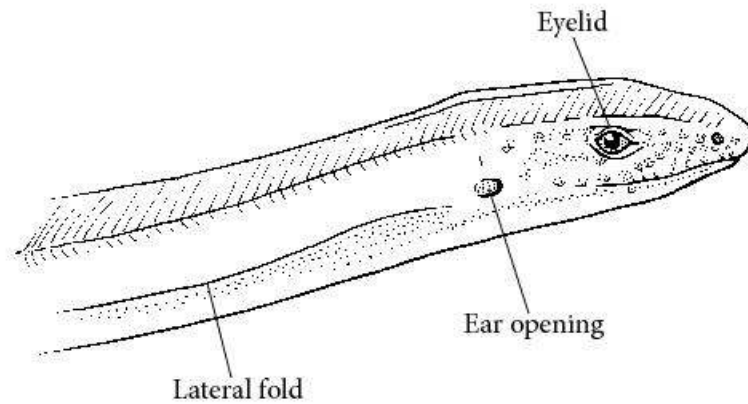


Figure 5. Identifying features of glass lizards. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

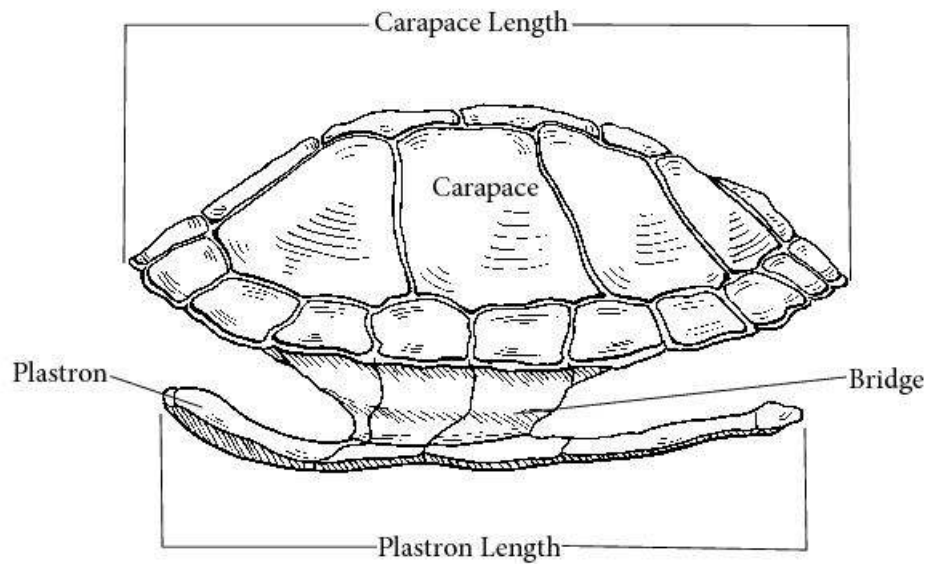


Figure 6. Major divisions and measurements of turtle shells. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

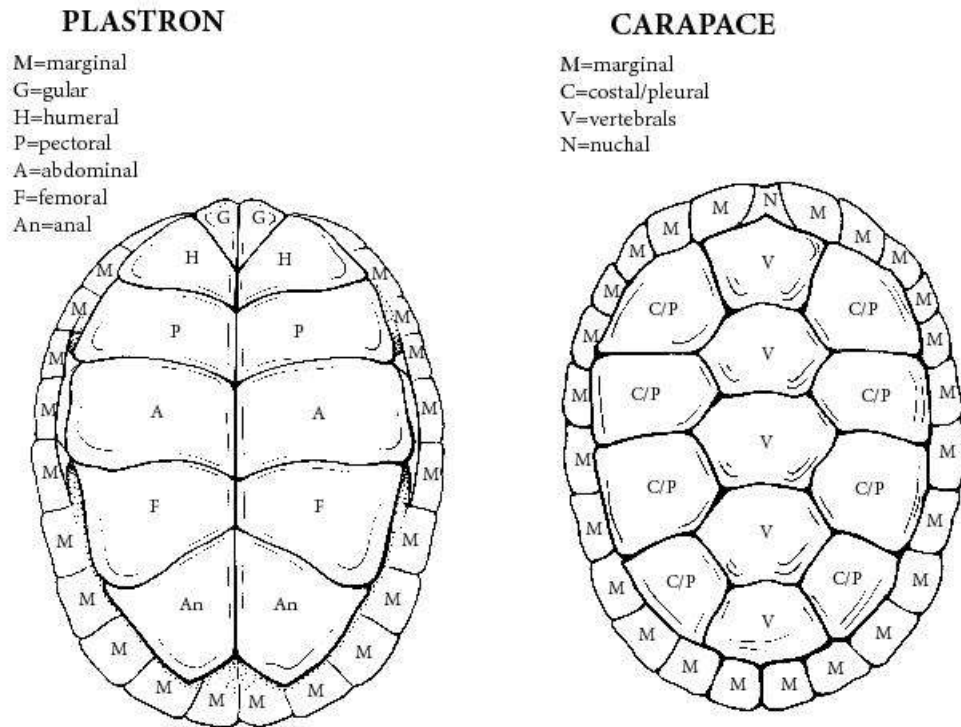


Figure 7. Major divisions and measurements of turtle shells. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

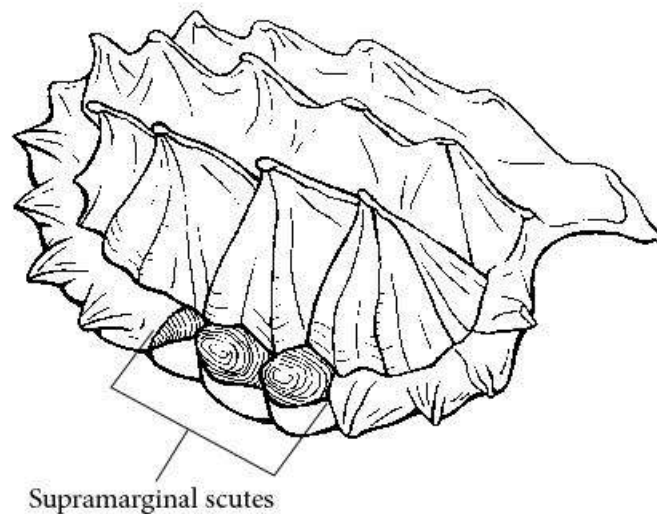


Figure 8. Supramarginal scutes on an alligator snapping turtle. Illustration by Bricelyn H. Strauch, <http://www.bstrauch.com/>

Glossary of Terms

Bridge: The section of a turtle shell that connects the lower part (plastron) to the upper part (carapace).

Carapace: The upper shell of a turtle.

Carrion: Dead and decaying flesh.

Dorsolateral Ridge/Fold: Fold of skin extending along the edge of the back of frogs; helpful in the identification of many species.

Dougherty Plain: Distinct region of southwestern Georgia consisting of limestone features such as caves, springs, and sinkholes.

Eft: Sexually immature, terrestrial life stage of newts (genus *Notophthalmus*).

Endemic: Occurring only in a particular region.

Estuarine: Associated with the coastal regions of mixing between fresh and salt water.

Fall Line: Abrupt transition between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain physiographic provinces. In Georgia, roughly oriented along a line between the cities of Columbus, Macon, and Augusta. Often determines the geographic-range boundary of organisms in the southeast United States. Approximately coincides with what is colloquially referred to as the Gnat Line.

Fossorial: Soil-dwelling; burrowing.

Isolated Wetland/Pond: Depressional wetland that is not connected to any stream drainage and usually fills with rainwater.

Larva: Immature stage of amphibians, usually possessing gills and tail fins; equivalent to tadpoles in frogs.

Paedomorphosis: Sexual maturity reached in the larval body form.

Plastron: The lower shell of a turtle.

Scute: An enlarged, plate-like scale; as in the plates on a turtle's shell or the scales of a snake's belly.

Siltation: The process (either natural or human-caused) of sediment deposition in streams and wetlands.

Silviculture: Tree farming.

Sinkhole Pond: A typically round, isolated wetland type in the Coastal Plain that is formed when subsurface limestone bedrock dissolves and the ground above sinks into this space.

Spicules: Needle-like structures found in the throats of Leatherback Sea Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

Vent: The common opening of the reproductive and excretory systems; also referred to as the cloaca.

Xeric: Dry.

Document updated by John Jensen, April 2011.