

ImageAnt guide for color
pattern scoring of the
Eastern Red-backed
Salamander (*Plethodon*
cinereus)

Color pattern key

- Striped morph:
 - Red or orange-red stripe running along the back
 - The stripe can be continuous or discontinuous (see “difficult striped morph” photos)
 - The sides are dark colored
 - Contrast in color between the stripe and sides
- Lead morph:
 - Uniformly black or dark gray on the back and sides
 - Can be speckled or not, but will never have large spots
 - Sometimes light shining can create a reddish-looking tinge – but still no clear contrast between back and sides (see “difficult lead morph” photo)
- Other:
 - Any aberrant color (not described above).
 - E.g., white stripe, uniformly orange or silver

Striped morph



Striped morph



Striped morph



Lead (unstriped) morph



Lead (unstriped) morph



Difficult striped morph



Difficult striped morph



Difficult lead morph



Other color pattern



Erythristic morph

Other color pattern



Silver phenotype

Other color pattern



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Leucistic phenotype

Other color pattern



Albino phenotype

Other color pattern



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Stripes that are not a normal red or red-orange

Unusable image



Glare on salamander

Unusable image



Image out of focus

Unusable image



Not in natural habitat

Multiple (3) salamanders

