

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

Color pattern key

- Red 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

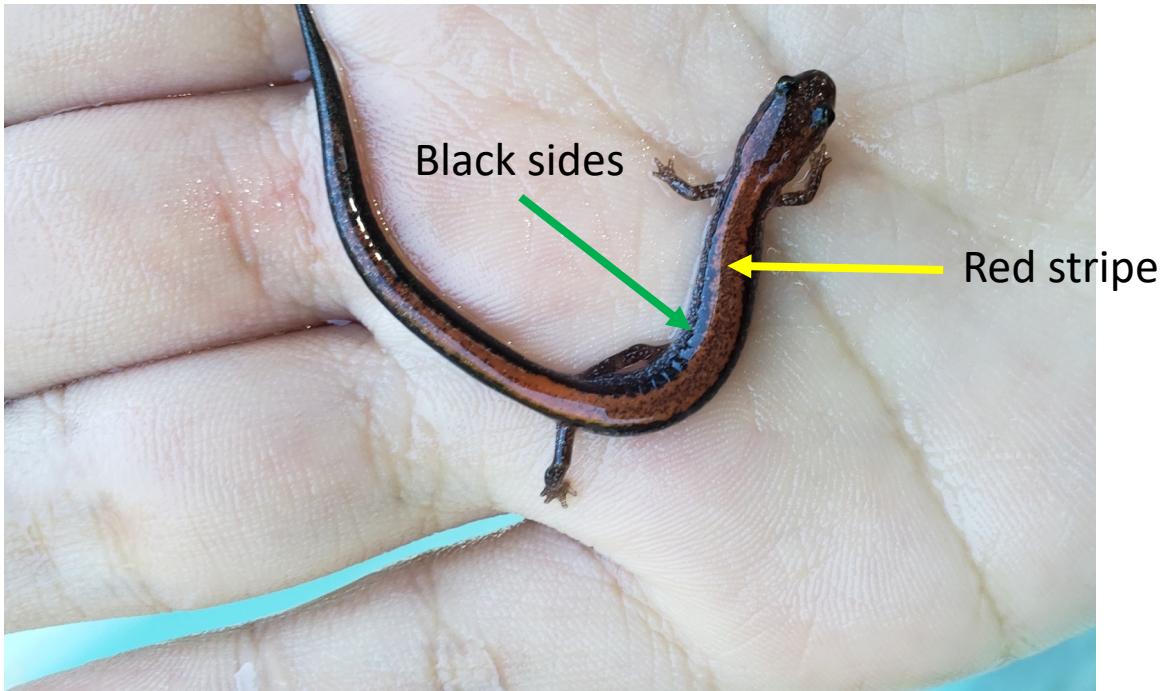
Red striped morph



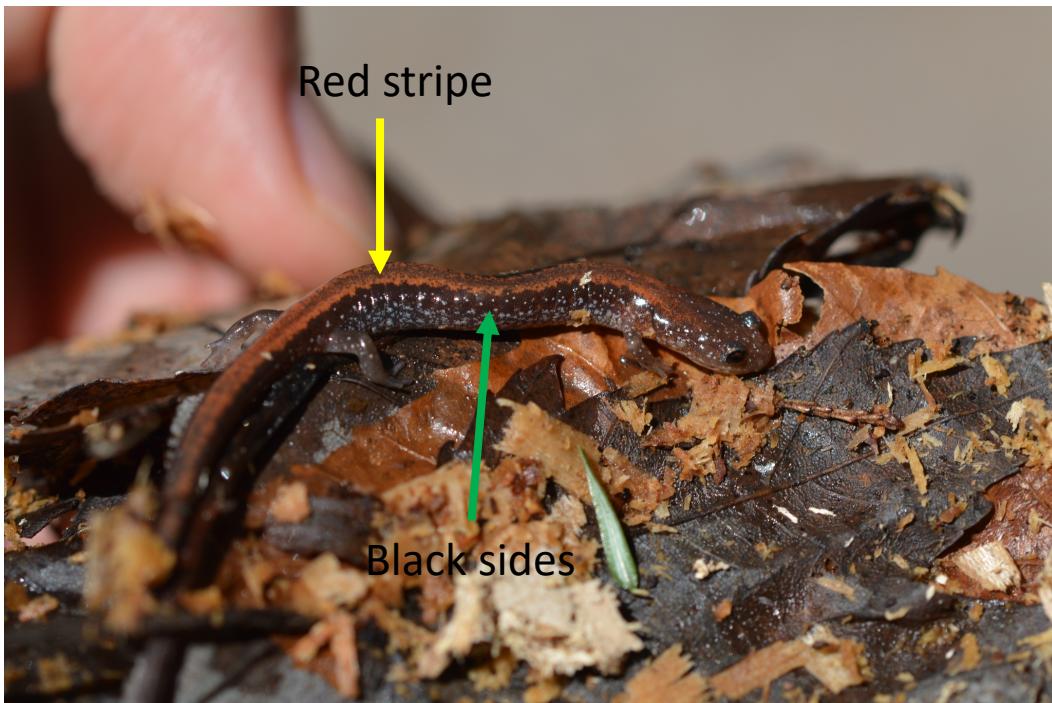
Red stripe

Black sides

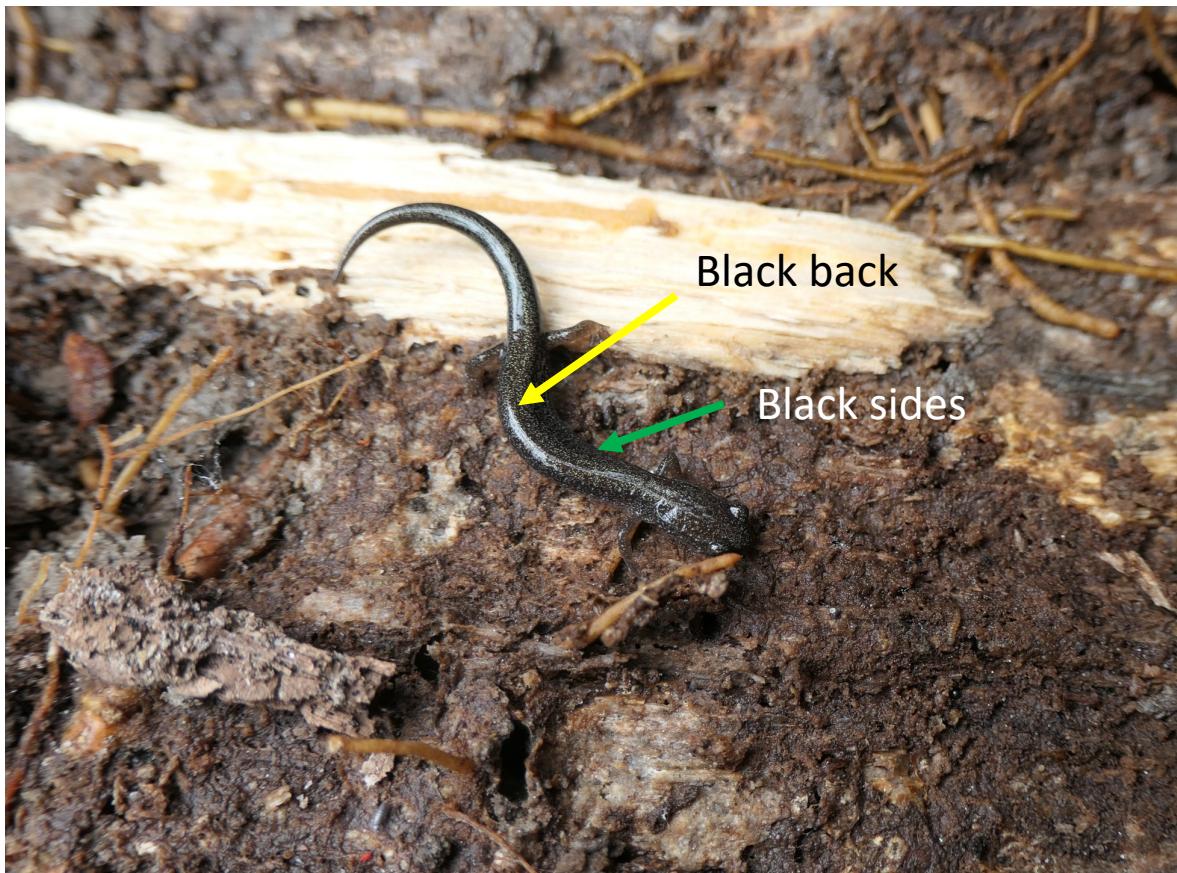
Red striped morph



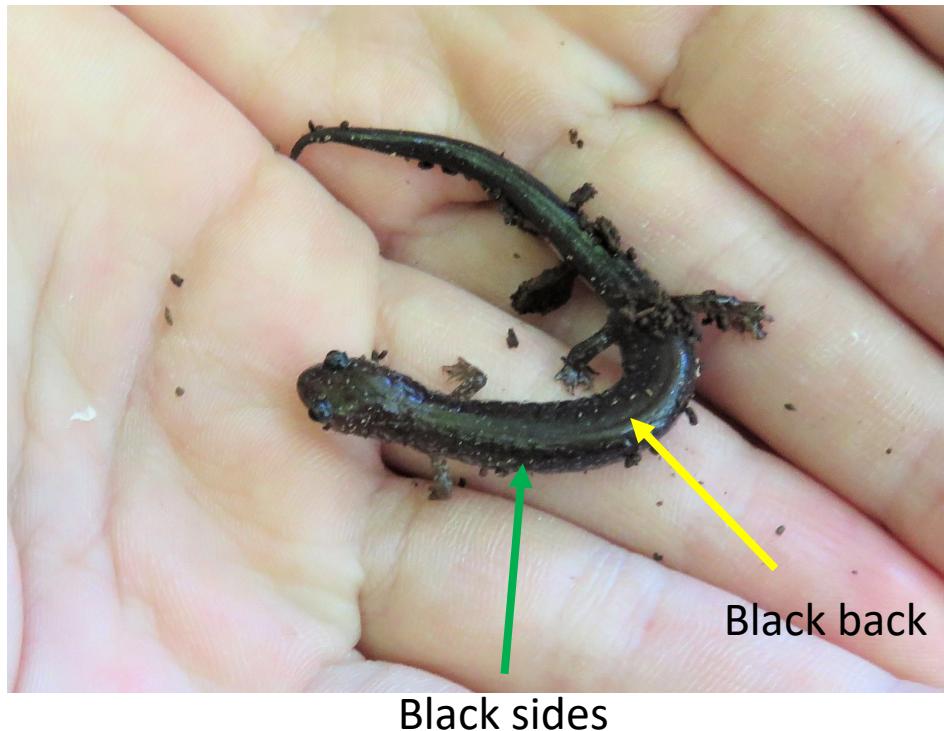
Red striped morph



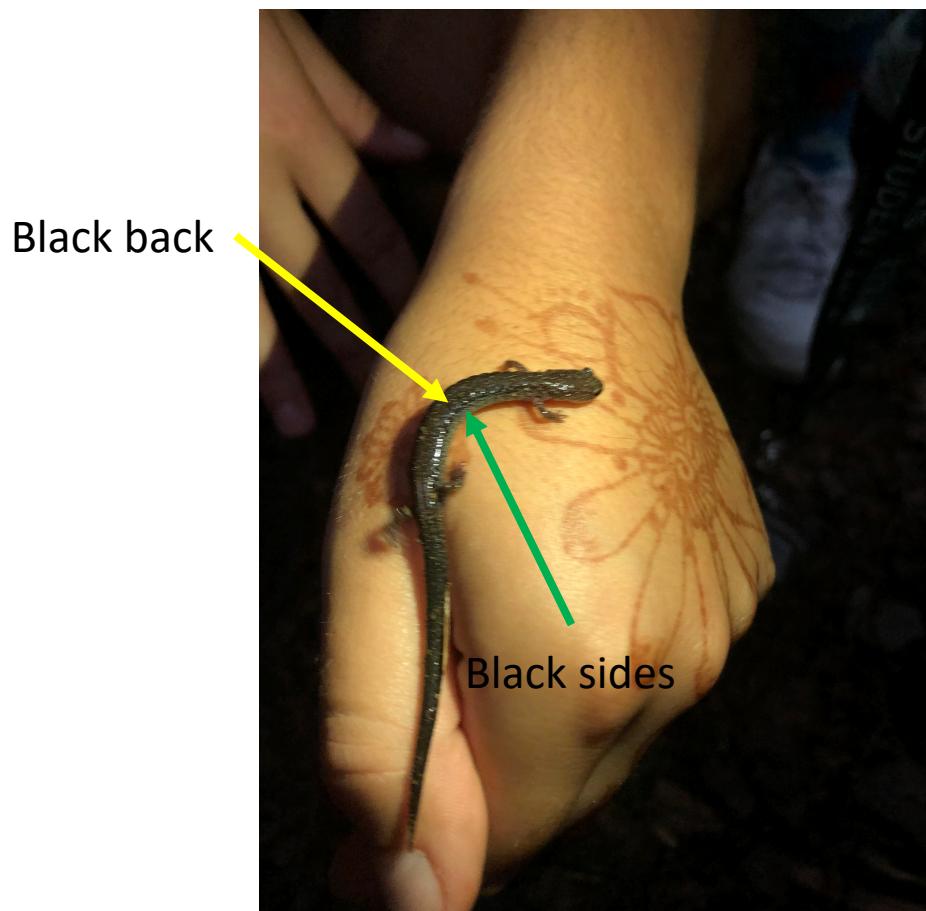
Lead (unstriped) morph



Lead (unstriped) morph



Lead (unstriped) morph



Lead (unstriped) morph

Black back – more colorful because of light



Black sides - with more speckling

Lead (unstriped) morph

Black back



Black sides - with more speckling

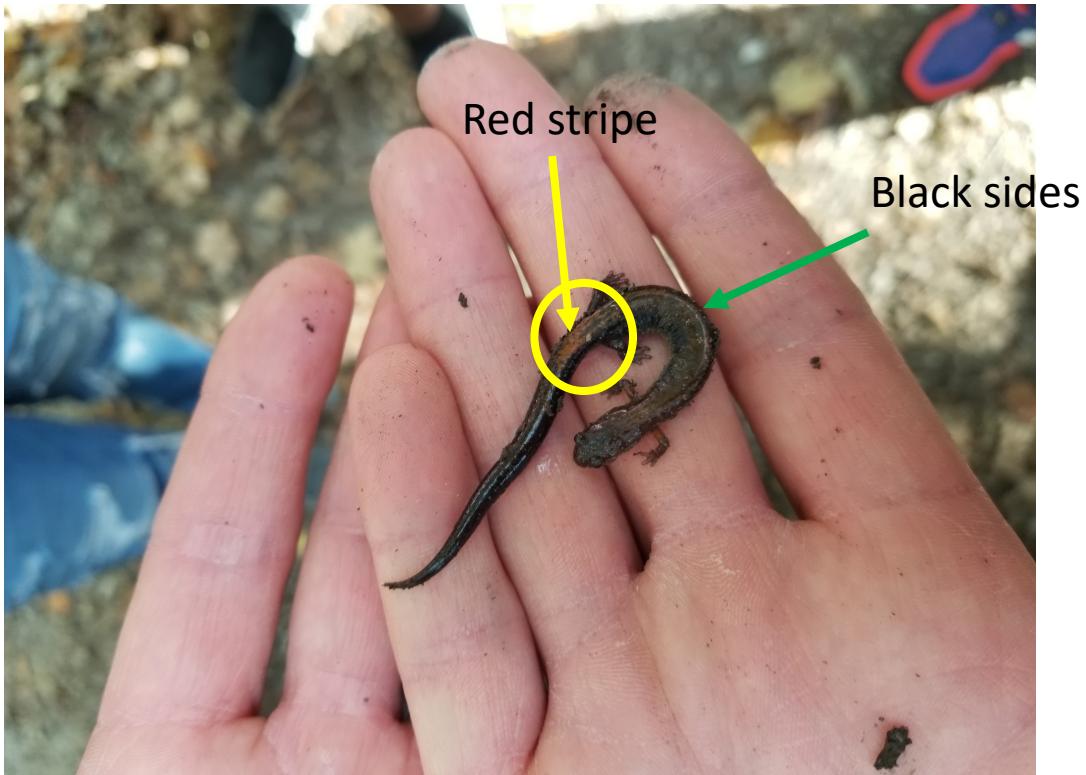
Lead (unstriped) morph

Black back –
more colorful
because of light



Black sides - with more speckling

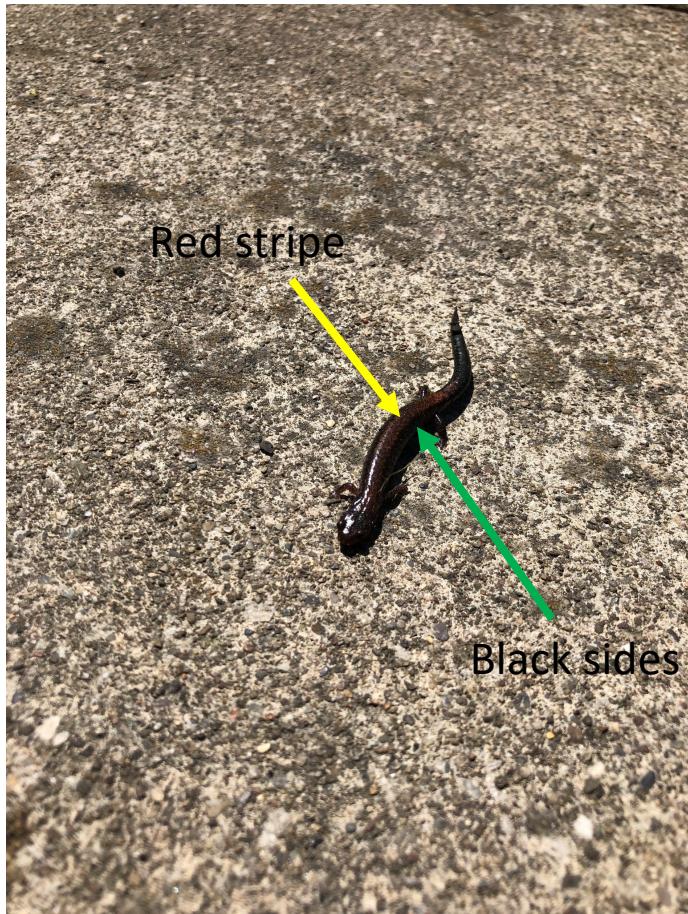
Difficult red striped morph



Difficult red striped morph



Difficult red striped morph



Difficult lead morph



**No clear red stripe or
Distinction between
sides and back

Difficult lead morph



Black sides

Dark back – looks a bit reddish in the sun

**No clear red stripe or distinction between sides and back

Difficult lead morph

Black sides



Black back –
more colorful
because of light

Other color pattern



Erythristic morph

Other color pattern



Silver phenotype

Other color pattern



© Carl D. Anthony - *Amphibia-Nature*

Leucistic phenotype

Other color pattern



Albino phenotype

Other color pattern



© Robert and Rosemary Frezza

Stripes that are not a normal red or red-orange

Other color pattern



Stripe is visible,
but brown in color

Unusable image



Glare on salamander

Unusable image



Image out of focus

Unusable image



Not in natural habitat

Multiple (3) salamanders

