

with small black specks, and those which are upon the back often coalesce without interruption and form two long yellow bands. The colour, however, must be subject to vary, as it appears that some salamanders are found in the marshy forests of Germany, which are quite black above and yellow below. To this variety we must refer the black salamander found by Mr. Laurenti in the Alps, which he considered as a distinct species.

The salamander, like frogs, has no ribs, and it has a great resemblance to the latter in the general form of the anterior part of its body. When touched, it suddenly covers itself with that kind of coat of which we have spoken, and it can also very rapidly change its skin from a state of humidity to a state of dryness. The milk which issues from the small holes in its surface is very acrid; when put upon the tongue it produces a sensation as if a kind of scar were left on the part which it touched. This milk, which is considered as an excellent substance for taking off hair, has some resemblance to that which distils from those plants called *esula* and *euphorbium*. When the salamander is crushed, or when it is only pressed, it exhales a bad smell, which is peculiar to it.

Salamanders