







## The Chinese Giant Salamander is the Largest Amphibian in the World and Can Grow to Almost 2 Meters and 60 Kilograms

This giant living fossil is definitely not your average salamander.



The length of the giant Chinese salamander can reach almost 2 meters (6 ft). Image credit: Petr Hamerník

The Chinese giant salamander (*Andrias davidianus*) is one of the largest and most unique species of salamanders in the world. Native to central and eastern China, this species can grow up to 1.8 meters (almost 6 ft) in length and weigh almost 60 kg (130 lb), making it the largest extant amphibian on the planet.

Historically, Chinese giant salamanders were believed to be a single species, but recent research differentiated three distinct species from southern, central and eastern China. One of the newly named species, *Andrias sligoi*, or the South China giant salamander, is thought to be the biggest of the three, reaching a length of nearly 2 meters.

