



Clockwise from top right: Seymouria, Mexican
burrowing caecilian, newt and leaf green
tree frog.

leaving only the modern Subclass
Lissamphibia.

The three modern Orders of amphibians are Anura (the frogs and toads), Urodela (the Salamanders) and Apoda (the Caecilians). The number of known amphibian species is approximately 8,000 of which nearly 90% are frogs. The smallest amphibian (and vertebrate) in the world is a frog from New Guinea (*Paedophryne amoueyensis*) with a length of just 7.7 mm (0.30 in). The largest living amphibian is the 1.8 m (5 ft 10 in) South China giant Salamander (*Andrias davidianus*) but this is dwarfed by the extinct 9 m (30 ft) *Phrynosaurus* from the middle Permian of Brazil. The study of amphibians is called batrachology, while the study of both reptiles and amphibians is called herpetology.

Amphibians

Temporal range: Late Devonian - Present



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Dr. Rajesh Verma, Assistant Professor
and Head, D.K. College Baramulla, B.Sc. part
2, Paper (111A).

Question: Amphibians key general features Ka
Chira Sahil Verman Karay.

Ans:- Amphibians are ectothermic, tetrapod vertebrates of the class Amphibia. Modern amphibians are all Lissamphibia. They inhabit a wide variety of habitats with most species living within terrestrial, fossorial, arboreal or freshwater aquatic ecosystems. Thus amphibians typically start out as larvae living in water but some species have developed behavioural adaptations to bypass this.

Scientific classification:-

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Batrachomphala

Class: Amphibia
Gray 1825

Subclasses

- Temnospondyli
- Lissamphibia (modern amphibians)

The young generally undergo metamorphosis from larva with gills to an adult air-breathing form with lungs. Amphibians use their skin as a secondary resp. respiratory surface and some small tree-toad Salamanders and frog Jack lungs

and rely entirely on their skin they are superficially similar to lizards but along with mammals and birds reptiles are along with them and do not require water bodies in which breed with their complex amphibians are often ecological indicators. In recent decades there has been a dramatic decline in amphibian populations for many species around the globe.

The earliest amphibians evolved in the Devonian period from Sarcopterygion fish with lungs and bony - limbed fins, features that were helpful in adapting to dry land. They diversified and became dominant during the Carboniferous and Permian periods, but were later displaced by reptiles and other vertebrates. Over time amphibians shrank in size and decreased in diversity.