

# THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER



## About Our Cover

This Blue Ridge red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber nitidus*) was found under a rotting log in a secondary-growth pine forest along the Appalachian Trail in southwestern Virginia. These large, lungless salamanders are widely distributed throughout the eastern and southern United States. Their skin secretions contain pseudotritontoxin and are poisonous if ingested, making this an excellent example of aposematic coloration. In fact, skin secretions of the mud salamander (*P. montanus*), spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*), and eastern newt (eft stage; *Notophthalmus viridescens*) are also toxic, forming a Müllerian mimicry complex in which all members use red coloration to warn predators of their unpalatability.

The photograph was taken by Bob Remedi with a Canon 7D Mark II and Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L macro lens set at F14, 1/100 second and ISO 200. Bob Remedi is a full-time faculty member at College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL 60030. Bob would like to thank Dr. James Organ, Dr. Kevin Hamid, and Jerry Hinkley for helping to nurture his fascination with salamanders and love for taking students on the Appalachian Trail.

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