



# Albinism in a Common Fire Salamander, *Salamandra salamandra* (Linnaeus 1758), in Galicia (Spain)

Martín Quintáns Suárez

Lugar de A Ponte Oliveira, 15151, Concello de Dumbría, A Coruña, Galicia, España15151 (martindumbria@gmail.com)

Albinism is the total absence or substantial reduction of Melanin, which results in animals with white or yellowish skin and red eyes (Foenander and Charlton 2023). The difference between albinism and leucism is that in the latter individuals retain the usual pigmentation in the eyes despite showing a whitish, yellowish, golden, pink or reddish color in the skin (Ferreira et al. 2019).

These types of chromatic anomalies have been documented previously in the Iberian Peninsula. Arribas and Ribera (1992) indicated that numerous cases of albinism have been recorded in Common Fire Salamanders (*Salamandra salamandra*) in the northeastern Iberian Peninsula and that it is a well-known phenomenon in Europe. Leucism also has been recorded, in a juvenile in Santa Susanna, Catalonia (Poch and Torallas 2021) and in an adult in Fornelo de Montes (Pontevedra), Galicia (northwestern Spain) (Dopereiro and Puras 2018).

On 14 November 2023, while sampling a wetland in the village of O Logoso, Dumbría (A Coruña), Spain (42.97492, -9.072280), I encountered an albino larval Common Fire Salamander (Fig. 1). Its behavior and morphology (other than color) did not differ from those of other individuals of the same species at the same site.

### Acknowledgements

I thank César Ayres Fernández for encouraging me to write this note and for helping me with it.



**Figure 1.** An albino larval Common Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*) from O Logoso, Dumbría (A Coruña), Spain. Photograph by Martín Quintáns Suárez.

### Literature Cited

- Arribas, O.J. and J. Rivera. 1992. Albinismo en *Salamandra salamandra* (Linnaeus 1758) en el noreste Ibérico. *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española* 3: 14.
- Dopereiro, D. and M. Puras. 2018. Leucismo en “*Salamandra salamandra*” de Galicia. *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española* 29: 25–26.
- Ferreira, A., B. Lam, and G.M. Rosa. 2019. Records of albinism variants in amphibians from Portugal. *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española* 30: 37–41.
- Foenander, J. and T. Charlton. 2023. First report of albinism in the Blue-necked Keelback, (*Rhabdophis rhodomelas*) (Boie 1827), from Singapore. *Reptiles & Amphibians* 30: e20042. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v30i1.20042>.
- Poch, S. and J. Torallas. 2022. Note on the finding of a leucistic juvenile *Salamandra salamandra* in Catalonia. *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española* 32: 83–84.