



Figure 1. The amphibian tree of life.

The three orders of amphibians differ greatly in numbers, morphology, and reproductive modes. Generalized phylogeny is shown with the number of species for major clades in parentheses. Amphibians shown include: (a) *Xenopus leavis* (Pipidae), a fully aquatic species model organism (photo: B. Gratwicke); (b) *Epipedobates tricolor* (Dendrobatidae), a toxic species that sequesters toxins from its diet (photo: D. Cannatella); (c) *Rana aurora* (Ranidae) has a ‘typical’ frog life history with eggs laid in a pond where they hatch and grow as tadpoles until metamorphosis into an adult form (photo: B. Freiermuth); (d) females of the frog *Hemiphractus johnsoni* (Hemiphractidae) carry developing eggs on their backs, where they hatch into fully formed miniatures of adults (photo: D. Wake); (e) *Ensatina eschscholtzii* (Plethodontidae) females guard their eggs, which hatch into fully formed miniatures of adults (photo: H. Greene); (f) *Salamandra salamandra* (Salamandridae), the Fire Salamander of European folklore (photo: A. Noellert); (g) *Ambystoma andersonii* (Ambystomidae), a critically endangered permanently larval form closely related to the model organism *A. mexicanum*, the Axolotl (photo: L. Fehlandt); (h) *Siphonops annulatus* (Siphonopidae), a caecilian whose females stay with their eggs until they hatch into miniatures of adults and feed on a lipid secretion produced by the skin (photo: C. Jared).