



eastern spadefoot

Scaphiopus holbrookii

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
 Class: Amphibia
 Order: Anura
 Family: Pelobatidae

FEATURES

The eastern spadefoot averages one and three-fourths to two and one-fourth inches in length. It has an elongate, sickle-shaped spade on each hind foot which is used for burrowing. The skin is smooth. A vertical pupil, small parotoid glands and a yellowish line down the back from each eye are other traits present. There may be an additional light line along each side of the body. The body color is brown, grayish-brown or blackish-brown.

BEHAVIORS

The eastern spadefoot lives in sandy soil or loose agricultural soil. It lives under ground most of the year, coming out to breed. It can quickly bury itself, rear end first, by scooping soil with its spades. It is active at night. Breeding occurs March through September whenever there are heavy rains. The male's call is an explosive, low-pitched grunt. Eggs are deposited in short strings that are attached to vegetation in the water of temporary ponds. Hatching occurs in one to two days. Tadpoles transform in two to three weeks. The eastern spadefoot eats arthropods (spiders, insects, mites and others) and annelids (earthworms, leeches).

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

southern tip

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.