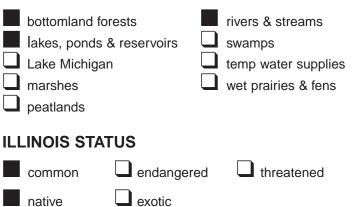


HABITATS



ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

planarian representative species

Kingdom:AnimaliaDivision/Phylum:Platyhelminthes - flatwormsClass:TurbellariaOrder:TricladidaFamily:Family:

FEATURES

Planarians are flatworms. They have a spade-shaped head. A tubelike pharynx on their belly acts to take in food and release wastes. Eyespots on the head allow these animals to detect and react to light. Planarians are grayish brown in color.

BEHAVIORS

Planarians live in spring-fed streams, lakes and rivers or in damp places under logs and decaying leaves. They move by gliding on a layer of mucous and cilia on the belly. They are hermaphrodites, producing both eggs and sperm but at different times. Fertilization is internal. The eggs are released into the water in capsules and drop to the bottom. Eggs hatch in two to three weeks. Planarians may reproduce asexually if injured. They feed on small organisms and dead organisms.