



- bottomland forests
- lakes, ponds & reservoirs
- Lake Michigan
- marshes
- peatlands
- rivers & streams
- swamps
- temp water supplies
- wet prairies & fens

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

southern 2/3

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2006.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

smallmouth salamander

Ambystoma texanum

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Amphibia
Order: Caudata
Family: Ambystomatidae

FEATURES

The smallmouth salamander averages four to five and one-half inches in length. It has a small mouth and head. There are two color variations: the dark variation has an indistinct pattern while the speckled variation has a black and gray pattern on a black background. The belly is black.

BEHAVIORS

The smallmouth salamander lives in woodlands, prairies, swamps, river floodplains and farm fields. It may be found under objects or in burrows. It is active at night. Breeding occurs from late February through March. Eggs are deposited on sticks or vegetation in masses of six to 30 in any standing body of water. Some small-mouthed salamanders breed in streams. Each female may deposit from 300 to over 800 eggs. Eggs hatch in a few days. Larvae transform into land-based adults from late May through July. This salamander eats earthworms, slugs and arthropods (spiders, insects, mites and others).

HABITATS