



Jefferson salamander

Ambystoma jeffersonianum

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

FEATURES

The Jefferson salamander averages about four to seven inches in length. It has long toes, a long snout and a slender body. The body may be brown or gray with a lighter belly.

The limbs and lower body may have blue flecks.

BEHAVIORS

The Jefferson salamander may be found in Edgar and Clark counties in east central Illinois. This salamander lives in damp woodlands, near ponds. The Jefferson salamander spends much of the year underground, coming out for a few days to reproduce. The female may deposit up to 20 egg masses of 15 eggs each. Eggs are attached to underwater vegetation and hatch in 30 to 45 days. Transformation to a land animal occurs from July to September. The Jefferson salamander eats earthworms and other invertebrates.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: Edgar and Clark counties

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.