



broadhead skink

Eumeces laticeps

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Reptilia
Order: Squamata
Family: Scincidae

FEATURES

The broadhead skink averages six and one-half to twelve and three-fourths inches in length. It has smooth, shiny scales. The male has an olive-brown body with a reddish, large head and swollen cheeks. The female and young have a dark body with five, long, light stripes.

BEHAVIORS

The broadhead skink may be found in the southern one-half of Illinois and areas around the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. It lives in dead trees which have woodpecker holes, swamp-like areas and wooded areas as well as empty urban lots. The broadhead skink moves quickly and is a good climber. It is active during the day. It will bite if disturbed. The mating season occurs from April through May. The female deposits six to 16 eggs in a rotten log or stump or in leaf litter sometime between May and July. The female remains with the eggs until hatching, a period of one to two months. This animal eats insects and any other animals it can overpower.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: Mississippi and Illinois rivers + southern 1/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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