



centipede

representative specimen

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Chilopoda
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The centipede has a long, flattened body with 15 to 181 body segments. It always has an odd number of segments. One pair of jointed legs per segment is present (except for the last one or two which have none and the first which has poison claws). This arthropod breathes through spicules. Depending on the species, it may or may not have eyes.

BEHAVIORS

The centipede may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in damp areas on land like under rocks, leaves or bark or in rotting logs. It eat insects, snails, slugs, worms and other small organisms. Reproduction is sexual. Eggs are deposited in soil or in a mud nest during the summer. Young centipedes have six body segments and six legs at hatching, adding more each time they molt. The centipede overwinters as an adult form.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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