



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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

ground beetle

representative specimen

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Coleoptera
Family: Carabidae

FEATURES

There are many different species of ground beetles so there is much variety in their appearance. They have long, thin legs. The body color is variable with some black and shiny others brightly colored. Usually the head is narrower than the body section that follows it.

BEHAVIORS

Ground beetles may be found throughout Illinois. They normally live on the ground under objects like logs, leaves or boards or on plants and flowers. Most are nocturnal. They may be seen flying around lights at night but most of their time is spent moving about on the ground. Both the adult and larva are predators of other insects and their larvae. If disturbed, a ground beetle may give off a bad odor.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest