

# mole salamander

## *Ambystoma talpoideum*

### FEATURES

The mole salamander averages three to four inches in length. The head and feet of this animal are very large compared to the rest of the body. The body may be black, brown or gray and may have gray flecks. It usually has a dark stripe on the belly.

### BEHAVIORS

The mole salamander lives in lowland woods. It spends much of the time underground or beneath objects like rocks and logs. It ventures above ground to reproduce. Eggs are attached to vegetation in shallow woodland ponds or swamps. Each female may produce 200 to 400 eggs. Transformation to the land-based adult takes place three to four months after the eggs are deposited. This salamander eats worms, mollusks (snails, slugs) and arthropods (spiders, insects, mites and others).

### TAXONOMY

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE





Ronald A. Brandon

## **Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests; temporary water supplies

## **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none