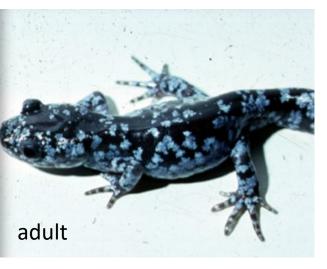
silvery salamander Biotype LJJ (formerly Ambystoma platineum)

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

endangered, native



ILLINOIS RANGE



FEATURES

The silvery salamander averages four to six inches in length. The body is brown, gray or blue-black. Blue flecks may be present on the lower body.

BEHAVIORS

The silvery salamander may be found as a native population in Vermilion County (east central Illinois) and an introduced population in Cook County. The native colony in Vermilion County lives in a wooded upland and an adjacent ravine. Breeding occurs in a nearby vernal pool that dries out in mid-to-late summer or earlier. The silvery salamander spends most of the time underground except for a short period when mating occurs. This salamander is an all female, triploid species containing two sets of chromosomes derived from the Jefferson salamander and one from the blue-spotted salamander. To activate egg development, the female mates with a male of a different species (small-mouthed salamander), but the sperm makes no genetic contribution to the offspring. Eggs are deposited in water and attached to vegetation. Young salamanders transform into the adult, landbased form in summer. This animal eats invertebrates.



egg mass

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2021. *Biodiversity of Illinois*. Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2021. *Biodiversity of Illinois*. Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; temporary water supplies

Woodland Habitats upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2021. *Biodiversity of Illinois*. Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.