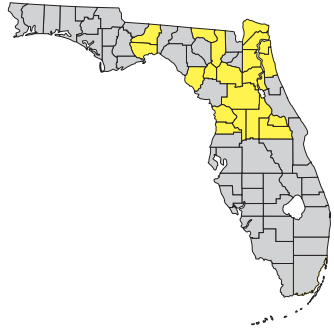


STRIPED NEWT

Notophthalmus perstriatus



Order: Caudata
Family: Salamandridae
FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3
U.S. Status: None
FL Status: None



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Description: A relatively small salamander, 2.4 - 3.9 in. (61 - 99 mm) with several distinct life stages. Adults and older juveniles are olive to greenish brown with red line running down each side of back and terminating on tail. Belly yellow with black spots; skin rough, not slimy as in most salamanders. Larvae aquatic, brown, with bushy external gills between eyes and front legs, and dorsolateral lines generally broken into segments. Juvenile terrestrial eft stage, when present, roughly-skinned, dull orange to reddish brown with two red stripes. Tail in all aquatic stages with dorsal and ventral fins, which are lacking in terrestrial stages.

Similar Species: Adult and eft of central or peninsula newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens*, lack red stripes; however, larvae are difficult to distinguish from striped newts of similar age.

STRIPED NEWT

Notophthalmus perstriatus

Habitat: Xeric upland communities, principally sandhill but also scrub; occasionally in pine flatwoods. Breeds in isolated, mostly ephemeral wetlands (depression marshes) that lack predatory fishes as a result of periodic drying cycles. Occasional fire and relatively undisturbed soil and vegetative groundcover are important terrestrial habitat components.

Seasonal Occurrence: Terrestrial juveniles and adults present but inconspicuous (mostly below ground surface) in uplands year-round. Various life stages occupy wetland breeding habitats much of year, with adults typically entering ponds October - March, and larvae and pedomorphic adults present March - December or until ponds dry. Most juveniles depart ponds for surrounding uplands in late spring or summer.

Florida Distribution: Northern and central peninsula, and the central panhandle counties of Leon and Wakulla; apparent hiatus between these two regions may reflect lack of appropriate habitat. Some counties indicated as occupied on map lack recent records and may no longer be inhabited; future work may yield specimens from some counties not indicated on map.

Range-wide Distribution: Extends northward into southwestern and eastern Georgia.

Conservation Status: Species has undoubtedly declined range-wide as a result of habitat disturbance and destruction, mostly for silviculture. Most of the best remaining populations are on protected lands, including national forests, military installations, and an ecological preserve.

Protection and Management: Maintain relatively natural upland habitats and included isolated wetlands; avoid intensive forestry and soil disturbance. Use prescribed fire to burn uplands as well as wetland basins when dry. Do not stock ephemeral ponds with predatory fish such as bass, catfish, and sunfish. Because species has been recorded moving into uplands nearly 0.4 mi. (700 m) from breeding ponds, preserve relatively large upland buffers, as well as natural connections among complexes of ponds, which have greater long-term potential to support populations than single, isolated ponds. Monitor known populations, especially in conjunction with changes in habitat. Protect populations in both panhandle and peninsula, as these may be genetically distinct.

Selected References: Ashton and Ashton 1988a, Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, Conant and Collins 1991, Franz and Smith 1999, Georgia DNR 1999, Johnson 2001, Moler (ed.) 1992, Petranka 1998.