

AMBYSTOMA TALPOIDEUM (GRAY) IN ILLINOIS

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ABSTRACT

During some explorations in November, 1931 in Southern Illinois, several specimens of the Mole salamander, *Ambystoma talpoideum* were found. The only previous record of this particular salamander's being found in Illinois has been the one made by Kennicott.

This time the collections of *Ambystoma talpoideum* were made on the island at Horseshoe Lake, a State Game Preserve about one mile south of Olive Branch and about fifteen miles north of Cairo. Originally Horseshoe Lake was an old oxbow of the Mississippi River and it is one of the few remaining original Cypress swamps in Illinois.

The particular area where the specimens of *Ambystoma talpoideum* were found was at the base of a sloping hillside which constitutes the shoreline of the island. Usually during seasons of high water this portion is flooded.

When found, *Ambystoma talpoideum* was under rotten logs buried in the ground about an inch or so. It had the characteristic lichen-like markings on its body making it harder to find.

Ambystoma talpoideum seems to be one of the rare species in this locality. Usually it is considered one of the southern salamanders. Finding it not only adds another record for its being in Illinois but also establishes a new northern limit for this southern species.

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