

MANY-LINED SALAMANDER

Stereochilus marginatus



Order: Caudata
Family: Plethodontidae
FNAI Ranks: G5/S1
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none

Description: A small (to 3.5 in. = 90 mm), relatively nondescript, mostly aquatic salamander. Olive to brownish dorsally with several indistinct, narrow, dark longitudinal lines (often broken into rows of dots) on lighter sides; belly yellow with scattered dark specks. Head small and narrow, eyes toward front, snout somewhat pointed; tail relatively short, one-half or less of total length. Larva similar but with bushy gills.

Similar Species: Most similar to larval red and mud salamanders (*Pseudotriton ruber* and *P. montanus*), which may be about the size of many-lined, but tend to be plain purplish brown or gray, sometimes with speckling but not lines; heads are more rounded and bear feathery gills. Central newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) lacks lines on sides and has more rounded snout and strongly compressed tail with fin. Dwarf salamander (*Eurycea quadridigitata*) has longer tail and four toes (vs. five) on each hind foot. Southern two-lined salamander (*E. cirrigera*), whose Florida range lies just west of the range of *Stereochilus*, has yellowish back (often peppered with black) and a broad, dark stripe on each side.

Habitat: Acidic ponds and sluggish streams, often in conjunction with cypress and sphagnum moss. Known from cypress and gum swamps as well as bayheads, often surrounded by pine flatwoods.

Seasonal Occurrence: Present but difficult to observe year-round, especially during drought and cold weather.

Florida Distribution: This relatively widespread salamander reaches the southern periphery of its range in northeastern Florida, where it has been documented from Baker, Columbia, Union, and Nassau counties (map in Krysko et al. 2019).

Range-wide Distribution: Atlantic Coastal Plain from southeastern Virginia to

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northeastern Florida.

Conservation Status: Populations occur within Osceola National Forest and adjacent Pinhook Swamp, although forestry practices may threaten habitat.

Protection and Management: Eliminate deleterious land management practices, particularly all forestry practices that result in hydrological disturbance or wetland degradation. Specifically, eliminate clear-cutting and drainage of wetlands, as well as use of herbicides near wetlands.

References: Ashton and Ashton 1988a, Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, Conant and Collins 1991, Moler (ed.) 1992, Petranka 1998.



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