

threatened

Have You Seen Me?



The Green Salamander can be distinguished from any other species of salamander within Pennsylvania by its striking green, lichen-like markings on a black to brown background, a coloration unique among salamanders. The belly is a pale yellow to white. The head and body are laterally compressed giving the salamander a flattened look. The tail is long and rounded and tapers towards the tip. The legs and toes are long with the toes having a square shape.

Seldom encountered, this rare species of salamander is one of Pennsylvania's highly threatened species. Only found within one county in Pennsylvania this arboreal salamander has a highly specific habitat preference, residing only in sandstone rock outcrops and boulders of the Pottsville formation within shaded, moist hardwood forests. This species is a microhabitat specialist, utilizing small, cool crevices with suitable moisture on these formations. The green salamander has also been known to be arboreal; utilizing loose bark, cracks, and knots on trees close to the sandstone formations.

Though seldom encountered, humans are the major threat to the green salamander populations throughout its entire range. The logging of hardwood forest within populated areas are a concern for the green salamanders survival. Harvesting of trees removes shade and moisture needed in the microhabitat for these salamander to thrive. Aggregate removal has also played a role in the decline of populations and habitat. The green salamander also falls victim to illegal collecting and pet trading.

The Green Salamander is only known to inhabit Fayette County, PA in small secretive locations, and it's unlikely that most people will ever get a glimpse of this species, with the exception of researchers and the occasional rock climber. If you're one of the lucky ones who happens to see one of these rare gems, consider it a privilege!

How you can help:

If you find a salamander you believe may be a Green Salamander, photograph the animal, document the place and time, and send in your report.

Identification Help:

To find more information on how to identify a Green Salamander, including photographs and more characteristics, please visit <http://paherps.com>

Reports:

Please send any information, reports, and photographs to Tim Maret of the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas. <http://paherpatlas.org>