

Eastern Mud Salamander

Eastern Mud Salamander - *State Threatened Species* - Pl.27
(*Pseudotriton montanus montanus*)

Identification: 2 7/8" - 7 5/8". The Eastern Mud Salamander is a heavy-bodied salamander with a relatively short, keeled tail. It is found in a variety of shades of red, and has well-defined round black spots. The sides and underside are lighter than the back. The young are typically brighter than older individuals; older individuals also have more spots. The adult underside is often flecked with brown or black; the underside in young is unmarked. The eyes are brown, unlike those of the Northern Red Salamander.

Where to find them: Prefers the mud and muck of unpolluted water sources such as springs, seepage areas, and cranberry bogs. There have been only 2 reported sightings of this species in the state: The one confirmed sighting occurred in 1953 in Burlington County and another report of this species was made in 1988 in Atlantic County.

When to find them: Active during spring through late summer.

Range: Southern Region: western Burlington County and southern Ocean County; required habitat only in portions of the Pine Barrens.

Conservation Status: Like many other salamander species, habitat fragmentation and the degradation of water quality have negatively impacted this species. The extreme rarity of this species in the state has led some authorities to believe that Mud Salamanders have been extirpated from New Jersey.

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Key Features

- Red with round black spots that are well separated from one another.
- Eyes are a solid brown color.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>