

1: DeKay's Brown Snake (*Storeria dekayi*) | The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History

Description: Brown snakes are small -- in. (cm) -- snakes that are usually brown, but can be yellowish, reddish, or grayish-brown. They usually have two rows of dark spots, sometimes linked, along the back and a dark streak down the side of the head. The belly is light brown to white.

Florida brown snake Listing Status Federal Status: Not listed FL Status: Demonstrably Secure, Sub sp. Not ranked Physical Description The Florida brown snake is one of the smallest species of the genus *Storeria* Bartlett and Bartlett This species can reach a maximum length of 12 inches Florida brown snakes also have a brown back, whitish belly with dark spots on the side of each belly scale, and rigged posterior back side and side scales Florida Natural Areas Inventory During times of extreme cold periods, the brown snake will go into hibernation. Snakes hibernate during cold periods because they are cold-blooded animals. Their body temperature is regulated by the temperature of their surrounding environment exothermic. Since snakes cannot generate their own heat they hibernate, usually in burrows, for protection against the cold. Life History The diet of the Florida brown snake primarily consists of earthworms, slugs, snails, frogs, small fish, and salamanders Florida Museum of Natural History, n. Male brown snakes will locate females by following the pheromonal chemical released to gain a response from the opposite sex tract they leave when they are in heat. Females can be courted by more than one male, as the males will push each other off the females back while trying to mate. Female brown snakes are viviparous " they have live births instead of laying eggs Ernst and Ernst Females in the Everglades have been reported to give birth to young. A female on Little Torch Key was found with six embryos Dalrymple et al. Females give birth from June to September, with most births happening in the months of July and August. Florida brown snakes reach sexual maturity at two or three years old Ernst and Ernst The loss of habitat has probably lead to the population decline of Florida brown snakes, especially for ones that are restricted to habitats near fresh water sources with surrounding grass and shrubs. However, they may be able to survive in cleared areas that are left to go through early ecological succession changes in the ecological community. The dense network of roads on Pine Key has caused the population there to have a significant threat of road mortality. Non-native species can also be a threat including the non-native cane toad *Rhinella marina* and Cuban treefrog *Osteopilus septentrionalis* , as they are known to feed on small snakes Maskell et al. The Lower Keys population is vulnerable to hurricanes as the accompanying floods and sea water surges potentially could kill brown snakes and their prey. The Lower Keys population will have to face the impending threat of global climate change as the accompanying sea level rise will flood their habitat, potentially causing a decline in their population along with their prey.

2: Herps of Arkansas: Dekay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*)

The name brown snake refers to two different genera of snakes, found on two different continents. If you are in North America, brown snake is the common name for Storeria, a small, shy.

I just think it is lame when someone feels the need to chop off their heads just for existing. Sorry that they give you the heebie jeebies, though. I get that way about sponges left in the sink. I thought it was a baby rat snake however, perhaps it was one of these I will check out the site you referred. I will have to keep a lookout for them. Janet, The Queen of Seaford - April 5, 8: Since I was walking all three dogs I gave it wide berth. Interesting post, I need to learn my snakes. Lisa and Robb - April 7, 4: Happy Hoppy Donna - April 7, 5: I have had a fear of them since I was small, and it is well warranted too. I know there are plenty harmless ones. I have garter snakes living in my yard because of all the masonry, and I just kinda step around them. I accidentally mowed over a few too and felt really bad. Looking at this website is a good therapy for me Ryan Kennedy - May 18, 6: Thanks for the info. Amy Gamber - July 15, 8: A small snake crawled out of my beds and my two year old nearly stepped on it. My husband captured it in my mop bucket so we could identify it. I feared it was poisonous and wanted to determine if we should look for others for our sons safety. We found your blog doing an image search. We put the spade aside and instead released the little fella to continue aerate and get rid of those annoying slugs! P Hicks - July 17, 3: Sharon Belger - December 14, 3: The last one last night Dec. We do not have trash or brush around our yard. This is driving me nuts. I am very concerned as to what is going on. We also have 3 cats and a dog.

3: Storeria dekayi wrightorum :: Florida Museum of Natural History

Storeria is a genus of colubrid snakes, endemic to North America and Central America. www.enganchecubano.com genus consists of five species, four of which are known as brown snakes, and the other of which is known as the redbelly snake.

Brown snake, Linn County Iowa Synonyms: It is illegal to kill or collect this species by law in Iowa. Brown snakes are common in Iowa. Description This is a small Iowa species measuring inches long Conant and Collins, It is non venomous. The ground color on the back is a varying shade of brown or gray. There is a light stripe that runs down the back. A row of black spots borders the stripe on both sides. The head is sometimes unmarked, but it usually has at least one if not all of the following: Brown snake, Muscatine County, Iowa There may be white pigment in between the scales when the skin is stretched. The belly is unmarked except for a row of black spots where the ventral scales meet the dorsal scales. Belly coloration may be cream, pinkish or yellowish. The scales are keeled and the anal plate is divided. Subspecies Most authors list two subspecies of brown snake as occurring in Iowa. The Texas brown snake, *Storeria dekayi texana*, is found in all of Iowa but the northwestern corner and the southeastern corner. The midland brown snake, *Storeria dekayi wrightorum*, occurs in southeastern Iowa. There is a large area of intergradation where the two subspecies ranges meet in Iowa. These subspecies are weakly defined and specimens resembling either subspecies may be found anywhere in the state. Brown snake, Boone County, Iowa Range Including the subspecies, the brown snake is found in all of Iowa but the northwestern third. Habitat These snakes are mostly found around water; bogs, marshes, streams, ponds, and lakes although they are usually found quite some distance from the waters edge. Open grasslands with woodland borders are favored. I often find brown snakes in association with river valleys in Iowa. Brown snakes hide under rocks, logs, and other cover. These snakes are extremely adaptable to environmental changes and are frequently found in city parks, city lots, cemeteries, and backyards. They may be found by turning flat trash. They are generally diurnal, but I have found them at night during hot weather. These snakes vary in temperament. Most of the specimens I have encountered have been very mild mannered and made no attempt to bite. A few others, however, have flattened themselves out like a ribbon. This stretches the scales apart and the underlying skin color may produce white dashes on the sides. Rarely they strike viciously and musk, but their bite is harmless and painless. Brown snake, Jasper County, Iowa They breed in spring and give birth to living young at a time. They are about four inches at birth and are nearly black with dark spots and a light collar around the neck. Brown snakes overwinter in rock crevices, road embankments, and in bridges. Large numbers of brown snakes can be seen crossing roads while migrating to their hibernaculums in October. Brown snake, Boone County, Iowa Food.

4: Brown Snake (*Storeria dekayi*) " Amphibians and Reptiles of Iowa

Storeria dekayi is typically found to be a grayish brown color with a lighter streak on its back that is bordered on each side with black dots. The belly of the brown snake is a pinkish white color. The belly of the brown snake is a pinkish white color.

A lighter vertical stripe runs down the back with short crossbars connecting two rows of dots. The patterning resembles a zipper and gradually fades to a uniform color toward the tail. Dark spots occur below each eye and on the temporal region. The belly coloration is cream. Superficially, this species resembles the Red-bellied Snake *Storeria occipitomaculata*, but has dark--rather than light--spots on the head and a cream--rather than red sometimes yellow --belly. Habitats This species may be found in a variety of moist environments, especially forest floors that have plenty of leaf litter. It is not uncommon to find them inhabiting bark mulch around flowerbeds. Habits and Life History This nocturnal, secretive species is rarely seen exposed, but may be uncovered from a hiding place. This species presumably follows an activity pattern similar to other snakes. Emergence from hibernation occurs in early spring, followed almost immediately by a breeding season. Females give birth to live young not eggs in late summer to early fall. Prey and Hunting Techniques The preferred diet of this species includes earthworms, slugs, and soft-bodied insects. They are able to extract land snails from their shells using their blunt heads and elongated teeth. This species forages actively for its prey. It may sometimes be seen crawling along the side of a house or rock wall at night in search of prey. Other than camouflage, this species has little in the way of defense. They will sometimes flatten their body and even curl up their labial scales, presumably to look bigger and more fierce. Conservation This species has no special protections in the state. Because of its secretive nature and diet preference, it persists even near human habitations. State Distribution and Abundance This species occurs statewide and is abundant. Gallery kaptankory May 06, , at Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas. University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville. Discussion As a kid, I observed a Brownsnake crawling along the edge of a rock wall at night. I followed it without disruption until it came to a rather large slug. It chewed on the slug--which was obviously too large! Then it disengaged, but continued to "eat" the remaining slime.

5: BioKIDS - Kids' Inquiry of Diverse Species, *Storeria dekayi*, brown snake: INFORMATION

Storeria dekayi wrightorum Trapido, - midland brown snake *Nota bene: A trinomial authority in parentheses indicates that the subspecies was originally described in a genus other than Storeria.*

The type locality was restricted to Massachusetts by Trapido and to Cambridge, Massachusetts, by Schmidt. The genus *Storeria* was first used for this species by Baird and Girard, and the combination *Storeria dekayi* has been used by all authors in the Virginia literature. They concluded against the recognition of subspecies. A small, secretive snake reaching a maximum total length of mm. In Virginia, maximum known snout-vent length SVL is mm. Dorsum of body and tail light brown or gray to dark brown or nearly black, with a longitudinal series of small, paired black spots; area between spots is lighter than rest of body, forming a tan middorsal stripe in some specimens; a variable number of pairs of spots 2- 22 connected by a thin black crossbar; lateral scales tipped in black and white to form a checkerboard-like pattern in some specimens; venter cream to gray and usually patternless; 1 to several tiny black dots or areas of dark pigmentation lie at edges of ventral scales; dorsum of head light brown to dark brown some are black in preservative with a short, longitudinal black streak on temporal scales; supralabials have 1 to several dark vertical streaks or have variable amounts of dark pigmentation; chin and infralabials cream and patternless; head blunt. Sexual dimorphism occurs in body size and scutellation. Mature females averaged larger. Sexual dimorphism index was 0. Male offspring of a Powhatan County female averaged slightly smaller. Females had a higher average number of ventral scales. Juveniles are uniformly dark brown to black dorsally, with a narrow cream to yellow collar on the neck. This pattern changes in the first year of life to that seen in adults. This species may be confused with several other small Virginia snakes. *Virginia valeriae* may have small black spots on the dorsum but has smooth scales. *Haldea striatula* has keeled scales and lacks the dorsal spots. Both of these species have more-pointed heads than *S. Diadophis punctatus* adults are uniformly gray to nearly black with a conspicuous collar; adults and juveniles have smooth scales. *Tantilla coronata* is uniformly brown with a black head and collar on the neck. *Thamnophis sirtalis* has a distinct middorsal stripe; a dorsolateral checkerboard pattern, the spots of which occur on more than 1 scale; and a longer head. The congeneric *Storeria occipitomaculata* has a reddish venter and 3 light spots across the neck in adults and juveniles. The average number of ventral scales was similar among physiographic regions in Virginia, ranging from . The average number of subcaudals in the northern Piedmont. The low scale counts were most characteristic of *S. Trapido* showed that there were few differences in scutellation and morphometries in the range of *S.* They are nocturnal, but are most often found under surface objects such as boards, trash of all sorts, logs, and rocks. Their microhabitat may be described as the soil-humus layer. Habitats include hardwood forests, mixed hardwood-pine forests, pine woods, grasslands, early successional stages of abandoned agricultural land, woodlots, and urban areas. These snakes are frequently found under debris and in gardens in yards. More have been found in human-disturbed areas than in natural habitats. They are active primarily between 13 March and 20 October museum records, although this snake has been found in every month of the year two have been found in February. Noble and Clausen examined the aggregation behavior of *S.* Hibernation sites include ant mounds and abandoned rodent burrows. Aggregations of more than two individuals have not been reported from Virginia. Slugs and earthworms are the primary prey of *S.* Wright and Wright noted that snails, insects, small treefrogs, and fish were eaten by this snake. Known predators of *S.* Ernst and Barbour listed Northern Black Racers *Coluber constrictor*, kingsnakes and milk snakes *Lampropeltis* spp. Linzey and Clifford mentioned that toads *Anaxyrus* spp. *Storeria dekayi* is viviparous. Mating has not been observed in Virginia, but Ernst and Barbour noted that it occurred from late March through May. They also stated that the gestation period was days. Courtship and mating was described by Nobel, repeated in Ernst and Barbour, b. Virginia females bore litters of young ave. Birth dates for nine litters were 22 July to 30 August, about evenly divided between the two months. Fitch and Ernst and Barbour reported birth dates of 6 July September, and litter sizes of from throughout the range of this species. Clifford recorded 5 *S.* Martin found 1 in a total sample of snakes observed on the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive in a 3-year period. Of the snakes examined

STORERIA: BROWN SNAKES pdf

by Uhler et al. The population ecology of this snake has been little studied. Nobel and Clausen determined that snakes in a New York population moved up to A total of individuals were once found in a 2-hectare field in Pennsylvania Ernst and Barbour, b. This snake used to be commonly found in cities around abandoned lots and trash piles. Recognition as a species of special concern is not justified, but its apparent decline in numbers warrants continued vigil. Management options include the creation of forest litter habitat in city parks and urban areas, and the control of predators, such as domestic cats.

6: Dekay's Brown Snake - *Storeria dekayi* - Details - Encyclopedia of Life

Brown snakes are brown – a muddy, grayish brown with a lighter band of brown along the spine bordered by tiny black dots. The underbelly is a pale beige or tan. In South Carolina, two subspecies can be found.

7: Snakes of Massachusetts

*Brown Snake (*Storeria dekayi*) Description: 9 - 13 inches. Brown Snakes are generally brown in color and may have a checkered pattern. There is a faint stripe down the.*

8: *Storeria victa* :: Florida Museum of Natural History

*The midland brown snake, *Storeria dekayi wrightorum*, occurs in southeastern Iowa. There is a large area of intergradation where the two subspecies ranges meet in Iowa. These subspecies are weakly defined and specimens resembling either subspecies may be found anywhere in the state.*

9: Dekay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*) | Kentucky Snake Identification

**Storeria dekayi* Description: Brown snakes are usually light brown in color, but may be rather gray or reddish brown. The brown snake typically has a pale stripe running down the middle of its back and has a row of small dark spots on its sides.*

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