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Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads and the Department of Defense

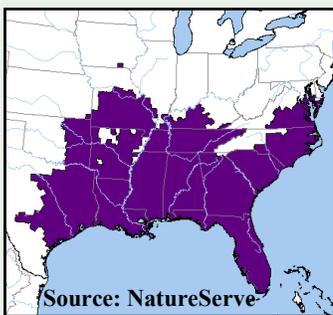


Picture by Seth Berry

The Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*) is a seldom seen, but often-heard small frog that is widely distributed across the southeastern United States. Its sheep-like nasal call is a familiar sound of summer.

Description: Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads are small frogs attaining a maximum snout-vent length of about 1.4 inches (3.5 cm). They have a tiny head, pointed snout, short hind legs, and smooth skin. The skin on the back of the neck has a transverse fold located behind the eyes. The hind toes are free of webbing. The dorsal color ranges from various shades of brown and gray to nearly black. The ventral color is grayish and has an extensive pattern of light spots.

Range: This species ranges from southern Maryland to southeastern Kansas, and south to the Florida Keys and eastern Texas. There are



Source: NatureServe

scattered disjunctive populations along the northern and western margins of its range.

Habitat: Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads occupy a wide variety of shaded moist habitats, burrowing into soil or hiding in or under surface cover or debris when inactive. Breeding habitat includes lakes, ponds, sloughs, flooded roadside ditches, swamps, stream margins, flooded road ruts, etc.

Behavior: Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads migrate considerable distances between breeding pools and adjacent non-breeding terrestrial habitats. Migrations of up to 3,000 feet (914 m) from breeding sites have been documented. Males call from beneath objects at the water's edge or partially hidden in grass. Breeding occurs after heavy rains, mostly in spring and summer. Tadpoles hatch in a couple of days and metamorphose in about 3-10 weeks. The diet is almost exclusively ants. Many ant species are consumed, including imported red fire ants, which may explain why these frogs seem to fare well in human-disturbed habitats such as residential areas.

Military Interactions: A very common species on DoD properties in the Southeast, this frog may be encountered both in military training and housing areas.

Conservation Status: The Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad has no federal conservation status. It is state-endangered in Maryland and state-threatened in Illinois and Kansas. It is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in three states at the periphery of its range. It has a NatureServe Raking of G5-Secure, and is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN Red list.

Threats/Planning Considerations: There are no known major threats to this species. A habitat management practice to benefit this species is to avoid filling wetlands that may be used as breeding sites.

Occurrence on Military Lands

Confirmed	Potential
Confirmed present on 77 military properties (17 Air Force; 33 Army; 7 Marine Corps; and 20 Navy).	Up to an additional 43 military properties (10 Air Force; 9 Army; 1 Marine Corps and 23 Navy).

