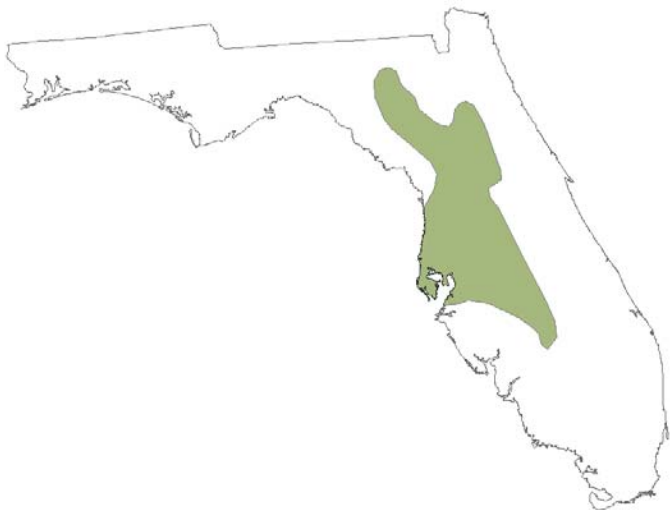


Upland Snake Species Profile:

Short-tailed Snake

Stilosoma extenuatum



Range: This species occurs only in north and central Florida west of the St. Johns River south to Highlands County.

Identification: The short-tailed snake is a small species, reaching a maximum length of about 65 cm (26 inches). A grey colored snake, the body is covered by dark blotches separated by yellow, orange or red pigment. A “Y” shaped mark may be visible on the head.

Natural History: This species is known to inhabit uplands with sandy soils, typically oak woods and hammocks. Short-tailed snakes may also be found in pine scrub habitat.

The natural history of this snake is not well known, but it likely spends most of its time underground and probably lays its eggs in subterranean burrows.

The main prey item of short-tailed snakes are other small, snake species, primarily the Florida crowned snake.

Conservation: Due to the restricted range of this species, it is highly vulnerable to human activity and development. Irresponsible forest management techniques, such as clear-cutting, may lead to population declines. The short-tailed snake is listed as threatened within Florida.

Useful References:

Conant, R. and J.T. Collins. 1998. A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin Company. New York.

Ernst, C.H. and E.M. Ernst. 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution. Washington.

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