



## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

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### *Pseudotriton montanus* Mud Salamander

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**Identification:** A vibrant red salamander marked with black spots. Juveniles are often bright red and lightly marked. In older individuals, the brick red or brown skin is patterned with larger spots.

**Status:** Global rank is **G5** and state rank is **S1**.

**Habitat:** Swamps, bogs, springs, and streams that provide a muddy substrate as well as clear, clean water. This species seeks shelter in burrows of their own construction or abandoned crayfish holes.

**Range:** The Gulf Coast variety is restricted to southern South Carolina through Louisiana.

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**Food habits:** earthworms and arthropods

**Reproduction:** Males become sexually mature at 2.5 years and females between 4-5 years. They may reproduce twice a year. Females deposit between 65-200 eggs in late autumn/early winter. Eggs hatch between January and March and transform from larvae about 19-20 months later.

**Reason for decline:** Degradation of water quality and habitat loss threaten this species.

**Interesting facts:** Mud salamanders construct their own complex maze of burrows including underground passages and underwater tunnels. Adults often rest at the entrance to their burrow, but quickly retreat when humans approach. As a result, adults are difficult to find.

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



**Dates of documented observations are:** 1951, 1962, 1966, and 1999

**References**

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