



Snake

©2018, J-O-P, Mitchell Kane

"Neither a costume nor camouflage...to be seen or unseen...we relish in naming our poison: visibility." -AK
"The eastern indigo snake has a number of common names including indigo, blue indigo snake, black snake, blue gopher snake, and blue bull snake."

"The eastern indigo snake (Fredricks, 1910) inhabits a wide range of habitats, including fields, riparian thickets, and high ground with well-drained, sandy soils. In Georgia, the eastern indigo snake is typically found in open pine forests with sandy soils during winter seasons, as well as in sandhills and scrub habitats. Xeric slash pine plantations seem to be preferred over undisturbed longleaf pine habitats. Habitat selection varies seasonally, from December to April, eastern indigo snakes prefer sandhill habitats, from May to July the snakes shift from winter dens to summer territories in sandhills, and from August to November they are located more frequently in shady creek bottoms than during other seasons.

The eastern indigo snake is most abundant in the sandhill plant communities of Florida and Georgia. These communities are primarily scrub oak/longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) with occasional live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), laurel oak (*Q. laurifolia*), Chapman's oak (*Q. chapmani*), and myrtle oak (*Q. myrtilifera*). Other common habitats include longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), scrub-oak pine (*Pinus taeda*), and hardwoods."

"Humans represent the greatest threat to the eastern indigo snake through powerlines, and overcollection for the pet trade. Eastern indigo snake populations are declining in the southeastern United States. Snakes are stolen illegally from the wild for the pet trade. Eastern indigo snakes are sometimes "baited" in their burrows by rattlesnake hunters."

"Because the cover requirements of eastern indigo snakes change seasonally, maintaining corridors that link the different habitats used is important. From the spring through fall snakes must be able to travel from sandhill communities and upland pine-hardwood communities to creek bottoms and agricultural fields. In winter, eastern indigo snakes require cover in open pine forests with dense herbaceous understory. Eastern indigo snakes also require cover in riparian areas. These riparian areas need to be maintained. Eastern indigo snakes are also dependent on the preparation operations on tree plantations. These piles are often destroyed for commercial reasons that should be left intact to provide cover for eastern indigo snakes. Summer home ranges for the indigo snake can be as large as 273 acres."

Wikipedia