

List of the Reptiles of North Carolina (2026-03-04)

This is a listing of the 70 native and 5 established non-native species that have been documented to occur in the state. Scientific and common names are those of the "Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America north of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in our Understanding; Eighth Edition" (2017) with updates based on recent primary literature as necessary. However, some of the common names may be unfamiliar to many people, and thus in brackets are those common names used in "Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia" (2010), where they differ from the names in the first reference. The list also includes the State Rank, Global Rank, State Status, and U.S. Status (if it has such statuses) for each species. The ranks are those of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program and NatureServe; see Page 3 for Status information, and the list of codes and definitions.

		State Rank	Global Rank	State Status	US Status
ALLIGATORIDAE: [1]					
1	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> American Alligator	S3	-- G5	T	T(S/A)
CHELYDRIDAE: [1]					
2	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> North American Snapping Turtle [Common Snapping Turtle]	S5	-- G5		
KINOSTERNIDAE: [4]					
3	<i>Kinosternon baurii</i> Striped Mud Turtle	S3S4	-- G5	W3	
4	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i> Eastern Mud Turtle	S5	-- G5		
5	<i>Sternotherus peltifer</i> Stripe-necked Musk Turtle	S1	-- G5	SC	
6	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i> Eastern Musk Turtle	S5	-- G5		
EMYDIDAE: [14]					
7	<i>Chrysemys picta</i> Painted Turtle [Northern Painted Turtle]	S5	-- G5		
8	<i>Clemmys guttata</i> Spotted Turtle	S4	-- G5	W1	
9	<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i> Chicken Turtle	S2S3	-- G5	SC	
10	<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i> Bog Turtle	S2	-- G2G3	T	T(S/A)
11	<i>Graptemys geographica</i> Northern Map Turtle [Common Map Turtle]	S1	-- G4G5	SC	
12	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i> False Map Turtle	Not native.	SE -- G5		
13	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica kohnii</i> Mississippi Map Turtle	Not native.	SE -- G5T4		
14	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i> Diamondback Terrapin [Diamond-backed Terrapin]	S3	-- G4	SC	
15	<i>Pseudemys concinna</i> River Cooter	S5	-- G5		
16	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i> Northern Red-bellied Cooter [Red-bellied Cooter]	S4	-- G5		
17	<i>Terrapene carolina</i> Eastern Box Turtle	[S4]	-- G5		
18	<i>Trachemys scripta</i> Pond Slider [Yellow-bellied Slider]	S5	-- G5		
19	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> Red-eared Slider	Not native.	SE -- G5		
20	<i>Trachemys scripta troostii</i> Cumberland Slider	S1	-- G5T4	SC	
DERMOCHELYIDAE: [1]					
21	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> Leatherback Sea Turtle	S1B,SUN	-- G2G3	E	E
CHELONIIDAE: [4]					
22	<i>Caretta caretta</i> Loggerhead Sea Turtle	S2B	-- G2G4	T	T
23	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> Green Sea Turtle	S1B	-- G3	T	T
24	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> Hawksbill Sea Turtle	SAB,SUN	-- G3	E	E
25	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	S1B,SUN	-- G1	E	E
TRIONYCHIDAE: [3]					
26	<i>Apalone spinifera</i> Spiny Softshell	S3	-- G5	W2	
27	<i>Apalone spinifera aspera</i> Gulf Coast Spiny Softshell	S3	-- G5T5	W2	
28	<i>Apalone spinifera spinifera</i> Northern Spiny Softshell [Eastern Spiny Softshell]	S1	-- G5T5	SC	
ANOLIDAE: [2]					
29	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i> Green Anole [Carolina Anole]	S5	-- G5		
30	<i>Anolis sagrei</i> Brown Anole	Not native.	SE -- G5		
GEKKONIDAE: [1]					
31	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> Mediterranean Gecko	Not native.	SE -- G5		
PHRYNOSOMATIDAE: [2]					
32	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i> Texas Horned Lizard	Not native.	SE -- G4G5		
33	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> Eastern Fence Lizard	S5	-- G5		
TEIIDAE: [1]					
34	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineatus</i> Six-lined Racerunner	S5	-- G5		
SCINCIDAE: [5]					
35	<i>Plestiodon anthracinus</i> Coal Skink	S2	-- G5	SR	
36	<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i> Common Five-lined Skink [Five-lined Skink]	S5	-- G5		
37	<i>Plestiodon inexpectatus</i> Southeastern Five-lined Skink	S5	-- G5		
38	<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i> Broad-headed Skink	S5	-- G5		
39	<i>Scincella lateralis</i> Little Brown Skink [Ground Skink]	S5	-- G5		
ANGUIDAE: [3]					
40	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i> Slender Glass Lizard	S1	-- G5	SC	

ANGUIDAE: [cont.]

41 <i>Ophisaurus mimicus</i>	Mimic Glass Lizard	S1 -- G2	E
42 <i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	Eastern Glass Lizard	S5 -- G5	

COLUBRIDAE: [34]

43 <i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	Common Wormsnake [Eastern Worm Snake]	S5 -- G5	
44 <i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Common Scarletsnake [Scarletsnake]	S3 -- G5	W1,W5
45 <i>Coluber constrictor</i>	North American Racer [Black Racer]	S5 -- G5	
46 <i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	Common Coachwhip [Coachwhip]	S2 -- G5	SC
47 <i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Ring-necked Snake [Ringneck Snake]	S5 -- G5	
48 <i>Farancia abacura</i>	Red-bellied Mudsnake [Mud Snake]	S4 -- G5	
49 <i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake	S3 -- G4	SR
50 <i>Virginia striatula</i>	Rough Earthsnake [Rough Earth Snake]	S5 -- G5	
51 <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Eastern Hog-nosed Snake [Eastern Hognose Snake]	S4S5 -- G5	
52 <i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hog-nosed Snake [Southern Hognose Snake]	S1S2 -- G2	T
53 <i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake	S3 -- G5	W1,W5
54 <i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Eastern Kingsnake	S4 -- G5	
55 <i>Lampropeltis getula population 1</i>	Outer Banks Kingsnake [Eastern Kingsnake - Outer Banks population]	S1 -- G5T2Q	SC
56 <i>Lampropeltis rhombomaculata</i>	Northern Mole Kingsnake [Mole Kingsnake]	S4 -- G5	
57 <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Eastern Milksnake [Eastern Milk Snake]	S3 -- G5	W2
58 <i>Seminatrix pygaea</i>	Black Swampsnake [Black Swamp Snake]	S2 -- G5	SC
59 <i>Liodytes rigida</i>	Glossy Swampsnake [Glossy Crayfish Snake]	S2 -- G5	SR
60 <i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i>	Plain-bellied Watersnake [Red-bellied Water Snake]	S5 -- G5	
61 <i>Nerodia fasciata</i>	Southern Watersnake [Banded Water Snake]	S5 -- G5	
62 <i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	Common Watersnake [Northern Water Snake]	S5 -- G5	
63 <i>Nerodia sipedon williamengelsi</i>	Carolina Watersnake [Carolina Water Snake]	S2 -- G5T3	SC
64 <i>Nerodia taxispilota</i>	Brown Watersnake [Brown Water Snake]	S5 -- G5	
65 <i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	Northern Rough Greensnake [Rough Greensnake]	S5 -- G5	
66 <i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i> -quadrivittatus	Central/Eastern Ratsnake Complex [Eastern Ratsnake]	S5 -- G5	
67 <i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>	Red Cornsnake [Corn Snake]	S5 -- G5	
68 <i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Eastern Pinesnake [Northern Pine Snake]	S2 -- G4	T
69 <i>Regina septemvittata</i>	Queensnake [Queen Snake]	S4 -- G5	
70 <i>Rhadinaea flavilata</i>	Pine Woods Littersnake [Pine Woods Snake]	S3 -- G4	W2
71 <i>Storeria dekayi</i>	Dekay's Brownsnake [Brown Snake]	S5 -- G5	
72 <i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	Red-bellied Snake	S5 -- G5	
73 <i>Tantilla coronata</i>	Southeastern Crowned Snake	S4 -- G5	
74 <i>Thamnophis saurita</i>	Eastern Ribbonsnake [Eastern Ribbon Snake]	S4 -- G5	
75 <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Gartersnake [Eastern Garter Snake]	S5 -- G5	
76 <i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earthsnake [Smooth Earth Snake]	S3 -- G5	W2

ELAPIDAE: [1]

77 <i>Micrurus fulvius</i>	Harlequin Coralsnake [Eastern Coral Snake]	S1 -- G5	E
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VIPERIDAE: [5]

78 <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>	Eastern Copperhead [Copperhead]	S5 -- G5	
79 <i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	Northern Cottonmouth [Cottonmouth]	S5 -- G5	
80 <i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake [Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake]	S1 -- G3	E
81 <i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	S3 -- G4	SC
82 <i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>	Pygmy Rattlesnake [Pigmy Rattlesnake]	S2 -- G5	SC

State Rank:

S1 = Critically imperiled in the state
S2 = Imperiled in the state
S3 = Rare or uncommon in the state
S4 = Apparently secure in the state
S5 = Demonstrably secure in the state
SH = Of historical occurrence, last record over 30 years ago
SX = Extirpated from the state
SE = Exotic/Introduced, presumed not native to the state
? = Uncertain rank; denotes an inexact or uncertain numeric rank.

State Status:

E, T, SC, and EX are legal designations of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.
SR and W are non-legal designations by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program.

E = Endangered
T = Threatened
SC = Special Concern
EX = Extirpated
SR = Significantly Rare
W = Watch List

Global Rank - Global ranks are similar to state ranks except "in the state" is replaced by "globally".

G1 = Critically imperiled globally
G2 = Imperiled globally
G3 = Vulnerable globally
G4 = Apparently secure globally
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally
GH = Historical
GX = Presumed extinct
GNA = Not applicable
Q = Questionable taxonomy
T_ = the rank of a subspecies of variety
_NR = Not yet ranked by NatureServe

U.S. Status: assigned by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; E and T are legal designations.

E = Endangered
T = Threatened
FSC = Federal Species of Concern