Iowa Range
southern half of Iowa

Bibliography
Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

smooth earth snake
Virginia valeriae

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Squamata
Family:	Colubridae

Features
The smooth earth snake ranges from seven to 10 inches long. It has a gray or reddish brown back with no markings and a white or yellowish belly. The scales are smooth or weakly keeled (ridged).

Natural History
The smooth earth snake is found in woodland edges, especially within a few hundred feet of rock outcrops and streams. It eats earthworms, slugs, and soft-bodied insects. It stays underground for long periods of time, coming out after heavy rains. It is active mainly at night. Mating occurs in May or June. Two to 14 young are born to the female in August or September. It is secretive and uncommon except in a few local areas in southeast Iowa.

Habitats
bottomland forests; interior river and streams

Iowa Status
uncommon; native