

A photograph of an earthworm, identified as Amyntas agrestis, in a garden setting. The worm is light brown and is shown in a curved, S-like shape, partially buried in the soil. The background is a dense layer of fallen leaves in various colors, including yellow, orange, and brown, suggesting an autumn or late summer environment. The lighting is bright, creating some highlights on the worm's body and the surrounding foliage.

**Amyntas agrestis**

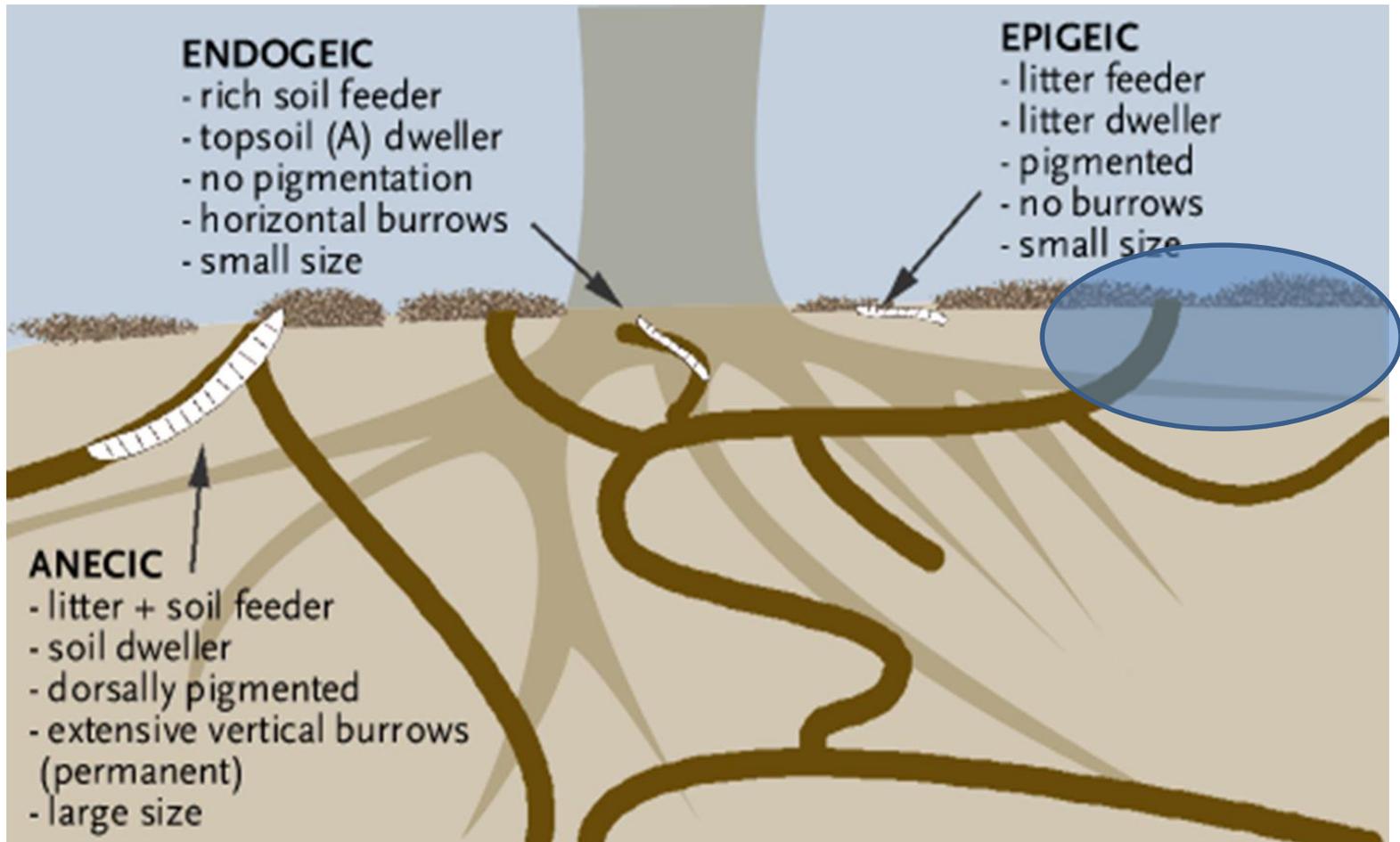
**Not Your Parent's Earthworm**

# Facts

- From Korea and Japan
- Annual species in Vermont (one of 17 species)
- Prohibited species in Wisconsin
- Forest Pest
- Outcompetes European Species
- Competes for Resources with Other Decomposers in Forest

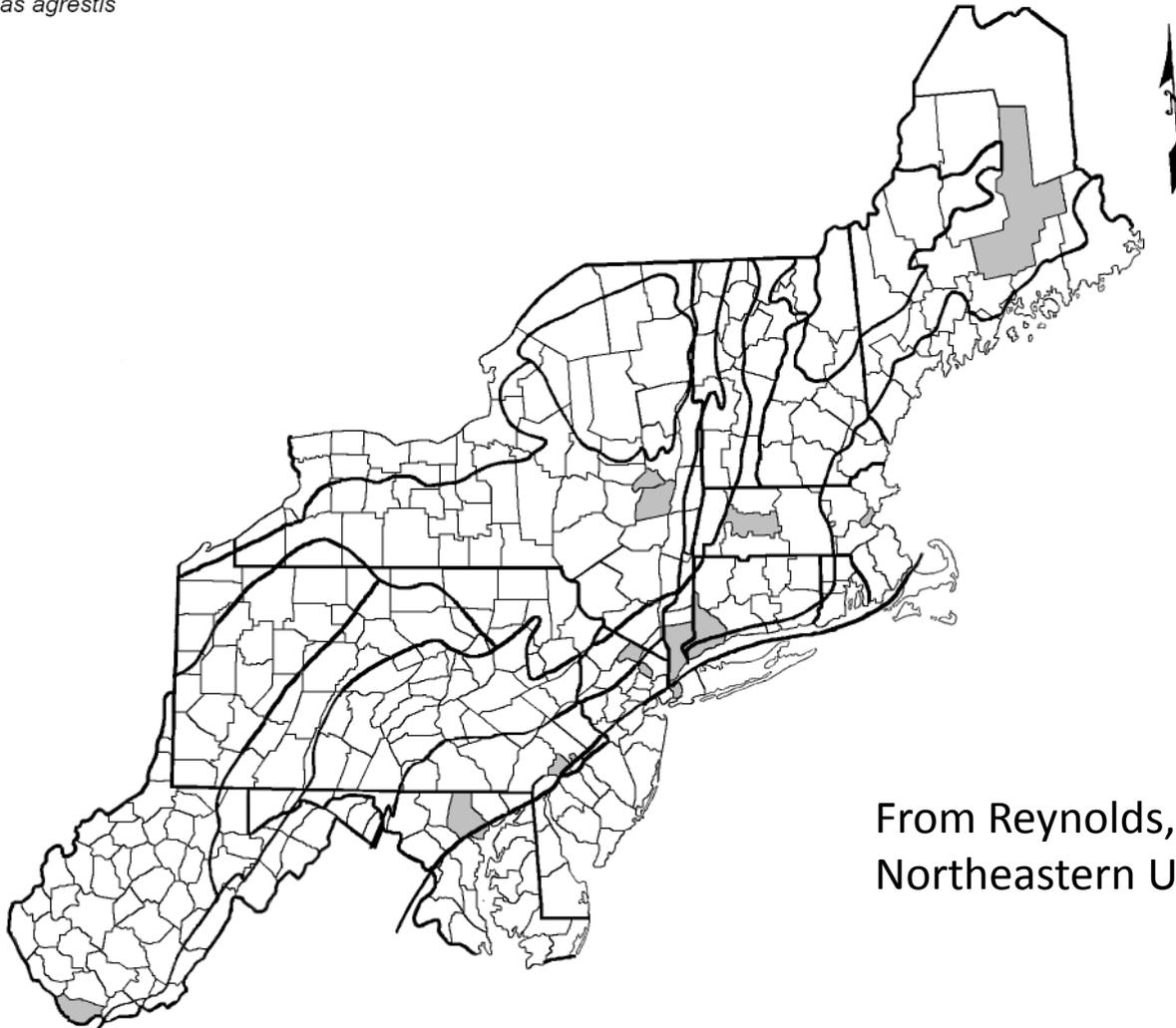
**Where in the World Is *Amyntas agrestis*?**

# Where in the soil do you find it?

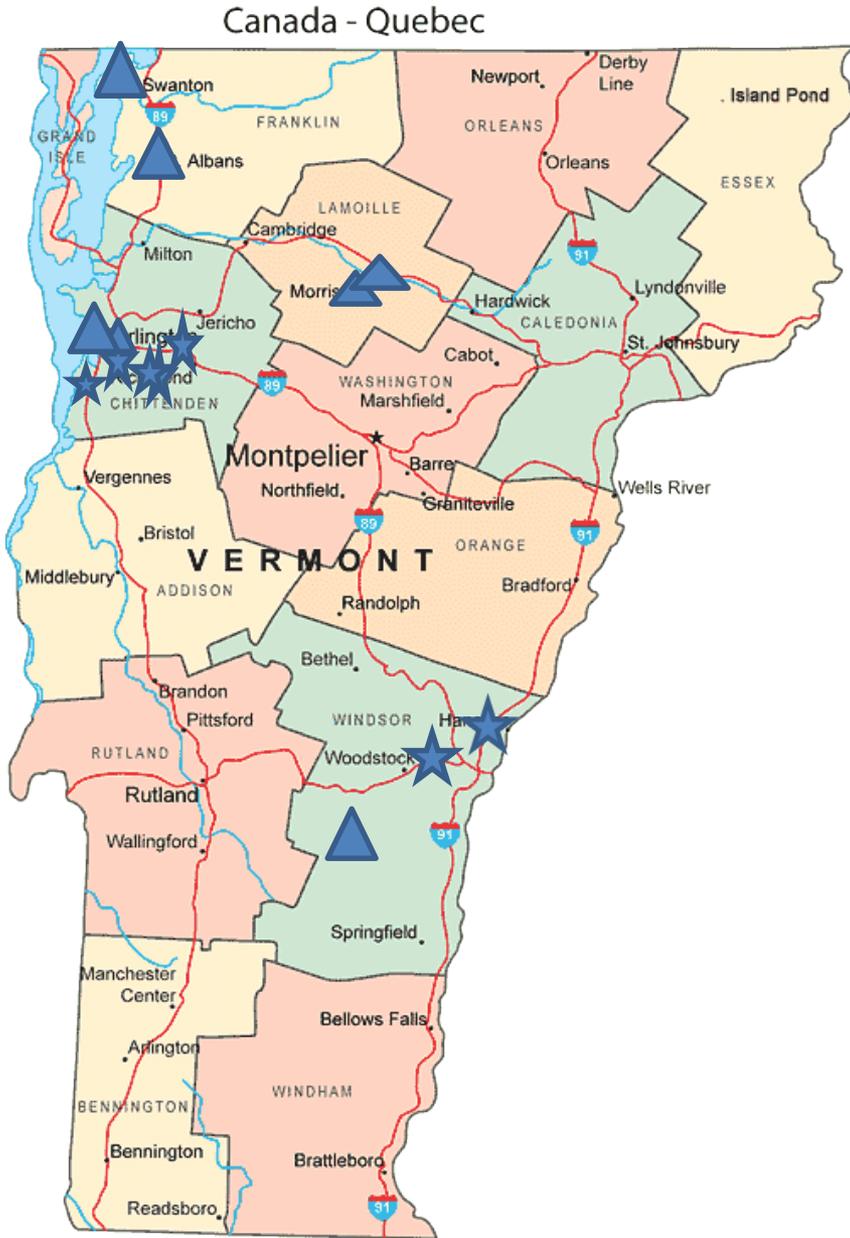


# Where in the Northeast?

*Amyntas agrestis*



From Reynolds, Earthworms of  
Northeastern USA, 2010.



Horticulture:  
 Mulch in Alburg,  
 St. Albans, Burlington  
 Compost: Jericho, Burlington

Mixed Deciduous Forest  
 Quechee, South Burlington  
 Sandy loam, Sandy Clay loam

Sugar Maple  
 Shelburne  
 Clay loam

**Where in Vermont?**

# Where in the Landscape?

- Deciduous forests
- Mixed deciduous-coniferous forests
- Mulched beds
- Raised beds
- Containers
- Community gardens
- Gardens
- Greenhouses

Why is it called Crazy Snake Worm?



# How do they develop through the year?

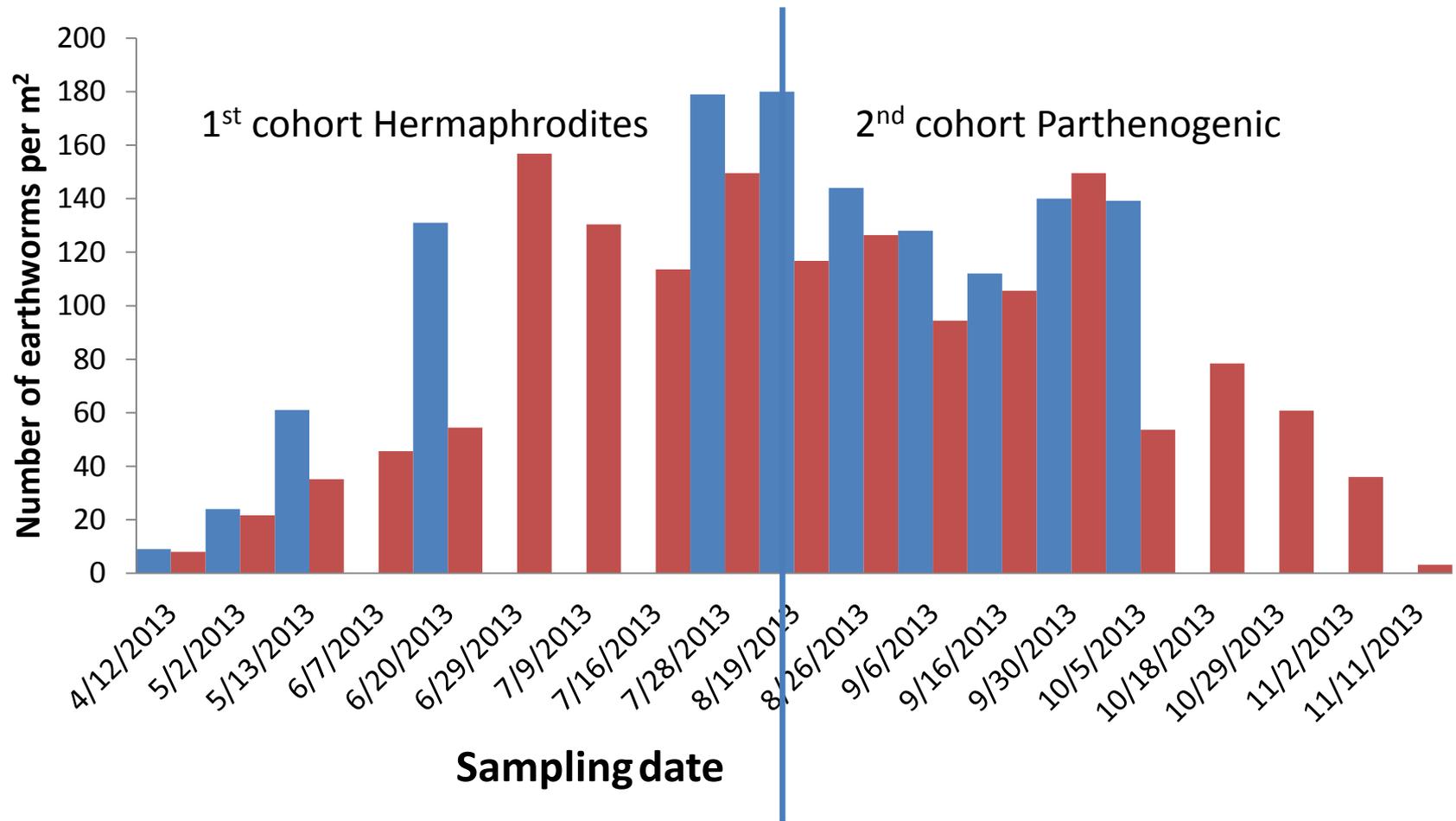


Very cold resistant cocoons:  
1 -3 eggs.

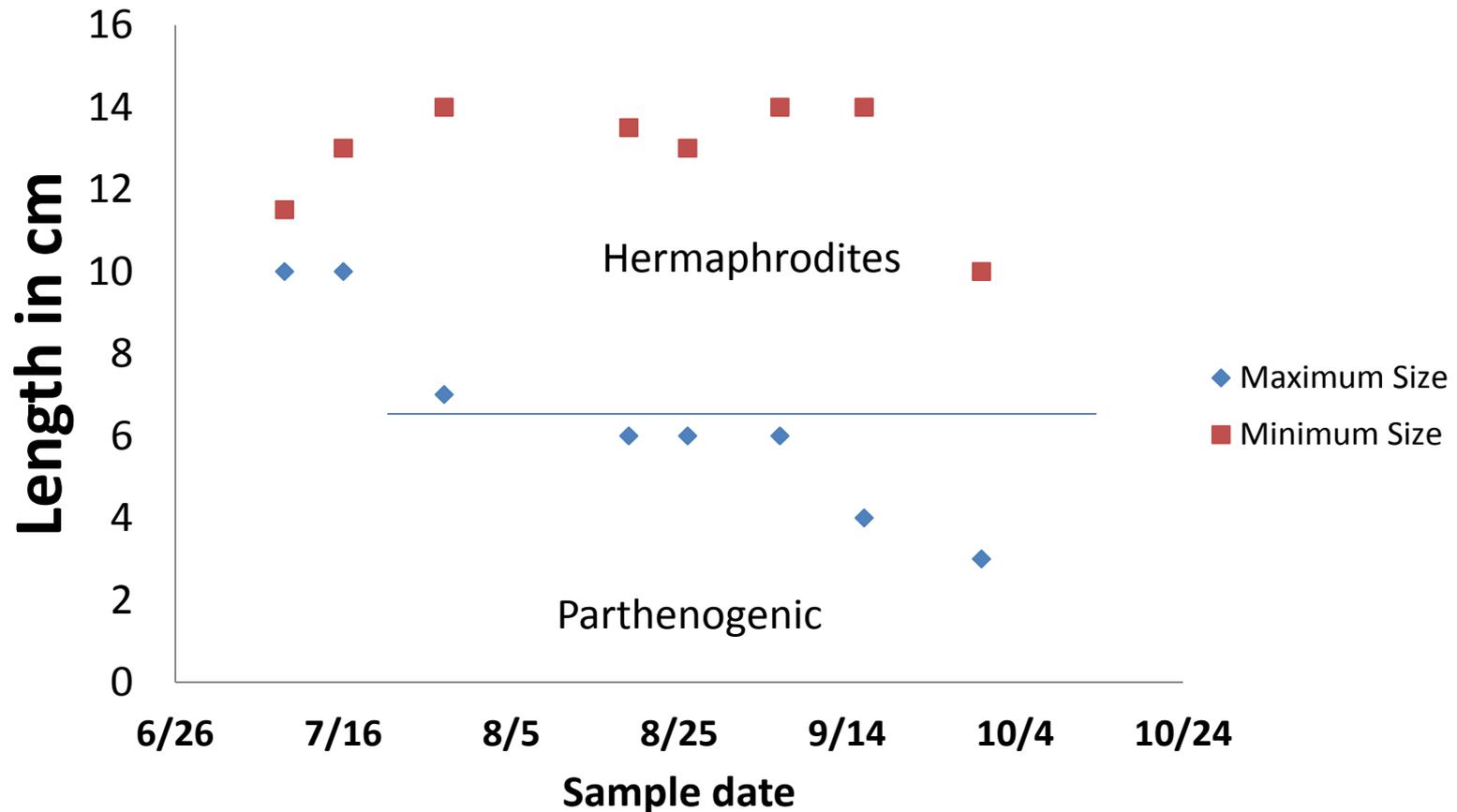


Annual worms...

# How does *Amyntas* develop through the year



# Amynthus agrestis adult sizes



Why am I talking to you?

# Forest Pest

No earthworms, Camels Hump, VT

Forest invaded by *Amyntas agrestis*  
Shelburne



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_27y\\_ETmoUBU/SYSqdKxvPHI/AAAAAAAAAjc/n48-1GUZZfQ/s400/deer-vermont.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_27y_ETmoUBU/SYSqdKxvPHI/AAAAAAAAAjc/n48-1GUZZfQ/s400/deer-vermont.jpg)

# Why should you listen to me: Horticulture connection?

- Cindy Hale: Here's a guy in Pennsylvania who has 30,000 Hosta varieties and this Asian worm came in with mulch he imported and it destroyed half of his nursery. In Minnesota, we've seen them at a few places in the Twin Cities and a handful of places in Wisconsin. They're not well-established in the western Great Lakes region yet but they're poised to be coming. They have the potential for even more of a heavy impact on our native forests, but also having very negative consequences to ecosystems where you traditionally think of earthworms being good, like gardens and landscapes.

[http://www.superiortelegram.com/event/article/id/118862/publisher\\_ID/36/](http://www.superiortelegram.com/event/article/id/118862/publisher_ID/36/)

# In your garden and in your nursery

## Burlington Tree Nursery

A nursery in VT where they use a lot of leaf mulch from their local municipality



# Amyntas castings among Lady Slipper Roots...



# In containers



# Potential Vectors of *Amyntas*

**Horticultural Waste**



**Mulch**



Act 148:  
You are getting inexpensive compost  
and leaf mulch

