



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Venomous Snakes

It is really difficult to differentiate between venomous and non-venomous snakes. Many non-venomous snakes look venomous to protect themselves. There are also snake types whose teeth are placed like the teeth of non-venomous snakes although their bites can be dangerous. Out of the 2800 kind of snakes, only 270 types are venomous.

Eastern Brown Snake

The eastern brown snake is usually orange-brown in colour, but variations from light to dark brown colour to an almost black are also found. Their belly is a light cream colour, often with orange blotches. They possess a small blunt head. Some juvenile snakes may also have dark head markings and may even be banded. The eastern brown snake rates number two on the world's most venomous snake list.

Habitat

The eastern brown snake is found all the way along the east coast of Australia, from the tip of Cape York, along the coasts and inland ranges of NSW, VIC and SA. Some specimens can be found in arid areas of the NT. There are also very limited numbers in eastern areas of Papua New Guinea. The eastern brown snake occupies a varied range of habitats from wet to dry sclerophyll forests (Eucalypt forests) and heaths of coastal ranges, through to savannah woodlands, inner grasslands and arid scrublands. The eastern brown snake is diurnal, which means it is active during the day, especially on warm sunny days where it will bask in the sun. This snake is possibly eastern Australia's most frequently encountered venomous snake.

Diet

The eastern brown snake's diet consists mainly of small mammals, such as rodents, birds and other small reptiles.

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