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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.

Fierce Snake

The fierce snake, otherwise known as the inland taipan or small-scaled snake, can reach a total length of 2.5 metres, although 1.8 metres is the average length. The upper surface of the snake can vary from dark brown to a light straw colour. Dramatic seasonal colour changes also take place, with dark winter and light summer phases.

Habitat

The fierce snake inhabits the black soil plains in the region where the Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory borders converge. This area has little vegetation so the fierce snake uses deep cracks in the dry soil to escape predators and the burning heat.

Diet

The diet is almost solely composed of small mammals, particularly native rats, which, at times, reach plague proportions in this region. The prey is subdued with a rapid, accurate strike, injecting the extremely toxic venom deep into the prey item. The venom is unequalled in toxicity amongst any snake anywhere in the world.

Breeding

Populations of this snake are highly dependent on the availability of its favourite prey, the plague rat. When the rats experience a good year, the numbers of fierce snakes will rise. By the same token, a poor year results in the loss of many rats and snakes from lack of food. The female fierce snake lays between 12 and 20 eggs per clutch, which are laid in an abandoned animal burrows or deep soil crevices.

Threatened Species!

Venomous Snakes are facing extinction within the next fifty years.

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