

INTRODUCTION

Snakes are legless carnivorous reptiles. They are ectothermic (cold-blooded) vertebrates, covering with overlap scales. Majority of them are non-venomous. Those that possess venom primarily use it to kill and subdue prey rather than for self-defense. However, some are potent enough to cause painful injury or death to humans.

COMMON SNAKES OF SINGAPORE



Brahminy Blind Snake

Habitat: Forested and urban areas

Non-venomous



Sunbeam Snake

Habitat: Forested and agricultural areas

Non-venomous



Red-Tailed Pipe Snake

Habitat: Swampy areas

Non-venomous



Reticulated Python

Habitat: Humid forested and agricultural areas. They are often driven out to human habitation due to habitat destruction

Non-venomous



Variable Reed Snake

Habitat: Forested areas

Non-venomous



Pink-Headed Reed Snake

Habitat: Forested areas, especially leaf litters

Non-venomous



Dwarf Reed Snake

Habitat: Forested and agricultural areas

Non-venomous



Golden Tree Snake

Habitat: Mangrove and lowland forests

Non-venomous



Blue Bronzeback

Habitat: Forested areas

Non-venomous



Elegant Bronzeback

Habitat: Forested areas

Non-venomous



Painted Bronzeback

Habitat: Forested areas

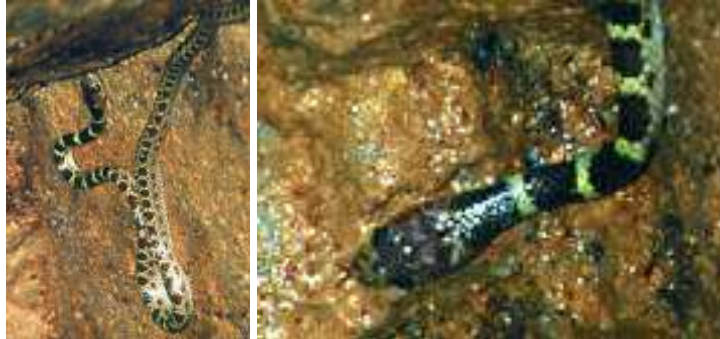
Non-venomous



Common House/Wolf Snake

Habitat: Forested, rural, and suburban areas

Non-venomous



Malayan Bridle Snake

Habitat: Forested areas

Non-venomous



Spotted Keelback

Habitat: Forested areas

Non-venomous



Striped Keelback

Habitat: Moist, lowland agricultural areas, gardens, and leafy suburbs

Non-venomous



Triangle Keelback

Habitat: Lowland primary forests

Non-venomous



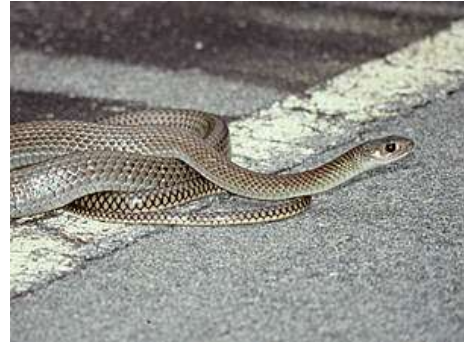
Striped Kukri Snake

Habitat: Forested and cultivated areas, gardens

Non-venomous



Brown Kukri Snake
Habitat: Mature forests
Non-venomous



Indo-Chinese Rat Snake
Habitat: Forested and agricultural areas
Non-venomous



White-Bellied Rat Snake
Habitat: Forested areas
Non-venomous



Malayan Brown Snake
Habitat: Forested areas
Non-venomous



Painted Mock Viper

Habitat: Forested areas

Venom is harmless to human



Paradise Tree Snake

Habitat: Mangrove and lowland forests

Weak venom sufficiently powerful to immobilise small prey



Gold-Ringed Cat Snake

Habitat: Forested areas, near streams

Mildly venomous



Oriental Whip Snake

Habitat: Forested and agricultural areas

Mildly venomous



Malayan Whip Snake

Habitat: Forested areas

Mildly venomous



Twin-Barred Tree Snake

Habitat: Mature forests

Mildly venomous



Blue Malayan Coral Snake

Habitat: Forested area, especially leaf litters

Highly venomous (venom can cause death to humans)



Banded Malayan Coral Snake

Habitat: Forested area, especially leaf litters

Highly venomous



Equatorial Spitting Cobra

Habitat: Mangrove forests, forested and urban areas

Highly venomous



King Cobra

Habitat: Forested and agricultural areas

Highly venomous



Banded Krait

Habitat: Forested, agricultural, and coastal areas

Highly venomous



Wagler's Pit Viper

Habitat: Mangrove forests and forested areas

Highly venomous



Mangrove/Shore Pit Viper

Habitat: Mangrove and coastal forests

Highly venomous (venom can cause death to human)

Do and Don't When Encountering Snakes

1. **DO NOT panic!** Most species are non-venomous and would rather avoid humans altogether. Even if you have encountered a venomous species, it is unlikely to attack or bite unless provoked. It is very rare for a snake to be spontaneously aggressive. If you move towards it or attempt to pick it up, you may provoke an attack.
2. **DO NOT attempt to kill or catch it**, unless it poses a danger to you or the victim. Never attempt to corner a snake. Many bites occur when people are attempting to kill the animals.
3. Leave the snake alone.
4. Snake tends to note the presence of a person through detection of vibrations. If you realize you are near to the snake, **AVOID sudden movement**, which may cause it to strike. If you remain still, the snake may leave. If the snake does not move away from you, **SLOWLY leave the vicinity**.
5. If the snake is **moving towards** you, **stamp the ground to create ground vibrations**. This should be enough to drive it away. Most snakes are as scared of you or more scared than you are of them.
6. **AVOID snake that appears to be dead**, as some species may roll over its back and stick out the tongue to fool potential threats.
7. **Move away from the snake's detached head**. Dead snake can immediately act by reflex and potentially bite. A bite from the dead snake often contain large amounts of venom, as it is incapable of regulating its venom.
8. **Immediately engage pest management professional**. Remember to have **someone watching the snake** if you have to leave the area when calling for help in order to make the searching and capturing easier. Provide **brief description** of the snake such as length, colour, and body patterns if possible.

Snake Prevention

1. Eliminate clutter in and around your premise.
2. Keep wood piles in secured sheds away from your premise. If possible, elevate them off the ground.
3. Remove unwanted debris such as loose rocks, trashes, and composts. Trashes and composts should be discarded regularly.
4. Cut down heavy brush and trim hedges away from the ground.
5. Keep grasses short and well-groomed.
6. Build a perimeter wide fence sloping outward at a 30° angle with holes less than 1/4 inch.
7. Seal up cracks and openings greater than 1/4 inch in your foundation with caulks or sealants.
8. Cover drain pipe openings with fine wire meshes.
9. Ensure doors, windows, and screens fit tightly.
10. Apply snake repellents such as sulphur around the perimeter of your premise.

First Aid

1. Protect the victim from further bites. Try to identify, kill, and bring (**ONLY** if it is safe to do so) offending snake. However, this is the **LEAST important** thing you should do and it is **NOT recommended** if the action risks further bites or delays proper medical treatment. Visual identification or description are usually sufficient.
2. Keep the victim calm. Acute stress reaction increases blood flow and endangers the victim.
3. Keep the bitten extremity in a functional position and at the victim's heart level to prevent venom from travelling inside the body and to avoid swelling.
4. Remove any items or clothing such as pant legs, shirt sleeves, rings, other jewellery, etc. on bitten extremity.
5. Immobilise bitten extremity. Wrap it with bandages or cloth and use splinting if available. Do not block the blood supply or apply pressure.
6. Do not incise the bitten extremity.
7. Do not apply oral (mouth) suction to bite.
8. Keep the victim as still as possible.
9. Evacuate to the nearest hospital or medical facility immediately.
10. Do not apply neither hot nor cold pack.
11. Do not allow victim to eat or drink, especially alcohol, as it may speed up the venom absorption.
12. Do not administer stimulants or pain medications to the victim, unless specifically prescribed by physician.
13. Do not engage in strenuous physical activity.