

Brown tree snake

Boiga fusca, Boiga irregularis

Other names: night tiger, banded tree snake

Description

The brown tree snake is the only member of the genus *Boiga* in Australia. It is mildly venomous but not regarded as dangerous to humans, however a bite from large individuals could produce uncomfortable symptoms. Brown tree snakes can become aggressive if threatened. They have a bulbous head, narrow neck and large eyes with vertical pupils like cats. Colour variations include cream to reddish brown with dark bands and orange to salmon underbelly. This species grows up to 2m.

Distribution

The brown tree snake's range extends from the Kimberley, Western Australia to just south of Sydney, New South Wales. It inhabits woodlands, mangroves and rainforests. The species lives in trees and is rock-inhabiting sheltering in hollow trees, caves and household buildings.

Regional Abundance

Darwin - Common, Katherine - Common, Alice Springs - Not found.

Diet and Reproduction

The brown tree snake's diet consists of mainly birds and small mammals with juveniles consuming lizards. The species is an egg-layer producing up to 12 eggs per clutch.

MILDLY VENOMOUS

David Reed



Chris Peberdy