



Golden tree snake

Dendrelaphis punctulata

Other names: common tree snake, green tree snake, bronze tree snake

Description

Tree snakes in the Northern Territory are commonly a yellowish brown to gold or yellow in colour with a greyish or bluish head and neck, but colour can vary enormously interstate. They are a slender snake with quite large scales and the underside is usually white or cream in colour. The golden tree snake grows to 1.5m in total length. The species is non-venomous and when cornered the neck and fore-body are vertically flattened to show the blue skin between the scales and they sometimes produce a foul smell.

Distribution

The golden tree snake's range extends from the monsoonal tropics of northern Australia down the east coast to south of Sydney, New South Wales. The species can inhabit a wide variety of habitats including woodlands, rainforest, caves, hollow trees, disused buildings and tropical gardens.

Regional Abundance

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

Diet and Reproduction

The golden tree snake is active during the day and has a diet consisting of mainly frogs and lizards which are swallowed alive. They are egg-layers producing between four and 16 elongated eggs per clutch.

NON-VENOMOUS



David Reed