

Keelback

Tropidonophis mairii

Other names: freshwater snake

Description

The keelback is a non-venomous snake belonging to the family Colubridae. Keelbacks can vary immensely in colour from grey to brown to olive and can be quite dark. They can also have various scale patterns including bands and their underbelly can be cream, olive, brown or salmon in colour. The species only grows up to 1m and can be aggressive if disturbed, they are often confused with the western brown snake.

Distribution

The keelback's range extends throughout the northern tropics of Australia down the eastern coast to the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. They are a semi-aquatic species and are usually found in or near water, and may be active during the day and at night.

Regional Abundance

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

Diet and Reproduction

The diet of the keelback includes frogs, tadpoles, lizards and fish. They are known to be the only snake relatively immune to the poison of the cane toad. Individuals of this species however, have died after consuming large toads. Keelback's lay eggs in clutches of up to 18.

NON-VENOMOUS



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