

## Orange-naped snake

*Furina ornata*

**Other names:** moon snake

### Description

The orange-naped snake is a relatively small snake growing to approximately 50cm. It is reddish brown to orange brown with darker edges on the scales. Its head is distinctive with a dark brown to black head and band across the neck which is bisected by a bright orange-red or yellow band. Belonging to the family Elapidae, the species is venomous and caution is advised as bites from large individuals may cause severe symptoms.

### Distribution

The orange-naped snake is widespread throughout the Northern Territory. In Australia it also covers the majority of Western Australia, northern South Australia and northern Queensland, inhabiting subhumid to arid environments. It is often found in woodlands, shrublands and spinifex deserts and is entirely ground dwelling.

### Regional Abundance

Darwin - Common, Katherine - Common, Alice Springs - Common.

### Diet and Reproduction

The diet of the orange-naped snake consists of almost entirely skinks but may consume other lizards and frogs. Females lay eggs in clutches of up to only five eggs.

VENOMOUS



Chris Peberdy