

Slaty-grey snake

Stegonotus cucullatus

Description

The slaty-grey is a non-venomous snake belonging to the family Colubridae. It can range from deep brown to a dark grey or charcoal and can be quite shiny with a cream to pale brown upper lip. The underbelly is white to cream and may contain black flecks. The average total length of an adult snake is 1.3m. These animals are nocturnal and can become extremely aggressive when approached, biting and emitting an unpleasant odour.

Distribution

The slaty-grey is commonly found throughout the northern portion of the Northern Territory and Queensland. They are usually found near creeks, swamps and lagoons with their range extending into woodland, monsoon forest and rainforest habitats. They are a capable climber though usually found on the ground foraging. They generally shelter beneath rocks, vegetation and in burrows.

Regional Abundance

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

Diet and Reproduction

The diet of the slaty-grey consists mainly of frogs, sometimes reptiles and some small mammals. Unfortunately slaty-greys are often found dead after eating cane toads. They are susceptible to the cane toad toxin but interestingly some individuals have survived. These snakes lay up to 20 eggs per clutch.

NON-VENOMOUS



Chris Peberdy