

Western brown snake

Pseudonaja nuchalis

Other names: gwardar

Description

The western brown snake is a highly variable and highly venomous snake. When threatened they rear their bodies into an 'S' shape so that they can project their bodies forward quickly when striking. There are several colour variations in the Northern Territory alone. These colours can range from yellow to bright orange to almost black, some with dark bands and head patterns. Their underbelly is typically cream to bright yellow and may have orange or grey blotches. The iris of the eye is red. Because of their diversity and ability to look like non-venomous species it is important to treat every snake bite as being from a venomous snake and not assume the species if unsure.

Distribution

The distribution of the western brown snake is widespread. It is common in all urban centres of the Northern Territory and inhabits all of central and northern Australia minus parts of the southern and eastern coasts of Australia. They can inhabit arid areas to tropical woodlands to spinifex deserts and mallee woodlands.

Regional Abundance

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

Diet and Reproduction

This species' diet consists largely of small mammals and reptiles. The western brown is an egg laying snake producing clutches of approximately 20 eggs.

HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Chris Peberdy



Black headed western brown snake