

Confusing Snake Identification in the Southeastern U.S.

VENOMOUS

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

I am a snake that can grow large. I am usually brown in color with accents of yellow and have dark brown diamonds on my back that run down the length of my body. When I'm scared, I shake my tail to let you know I'm there.



VENOMOUS

Canebrake/ Timber Rattlesnake

I am a heavy-bodied snake. My color is usually brown, but I can have pink and blue hues. I have chevron strips on my back and an orange line that runs from the back of my head down to my tail. When I am scared, I shake my tail as a warning.



VENOMOUS

Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake

I am a small snake. My scales are grayish-blue in color, and I have lots of black spots. Sometimes I have rusty red spots on my back from head to tail. I have a buzzer on my tail for when I'm scared, but you probably can't hear it.



VENOMOUS

Cottonmouth/ Water Moccasin

When I'm younger I am a rusty brown color with a band pattern, and my tail is neon yellow. As I get older I turn dark brown, sometimes black. I have a stripe on my face that covers my eyes. I live near the water, and when I'm scared I will coil up and open my mouth.



VENOMOUS

Eastern Copperhead

I am a snake that doesn't grow very big. When I'm little, I have a neon yellow tail. My pattern looks like Hershey's kisses from the side. I like to hide on the ground where my pattern blends in with the fallen leaves.



VENOMOUS

Eastern Coralsnake

I am a skinny and colorful snake. I have colorful bands that are red, yellow, and black. My face is covered in black scales. I'm not picky about where I live. I love to eat snakes, frogs and lizards.



NON-VENOMOUS

Florida Pinesnake

I am one of the biggest snakes in the southeast. I like to live in dry habitats. My scales are a sandy, light brown color, but I have dark blotches that run down my back. When I'm scared I shake my tail and hiss very loudly.



NON-VENOMOUS

Eastern Kingsnake

I am a medium-sized snake. My pattern varies, but it is usually broken up by bands that go across my back. It looks like I don't have a neck. I will sometimes shake my tail if I feel scared. I love to eat other snakes.



NON-VENOMOUS

Eastern Hognose Snake

I am a smaller snake. I have a thick body and can come in many colors: solid black, charcoal gray, or bluish-gray. I like dry habitat. When I feel scared, I will flatten out my neck and hiss very loudly. If that doesn't work, I will roll over onto my back and open my mouth.



NON-VENOMOUS

Banded Watersnake

I am a medium-sized snake. When I'm young, I am a rusty brown color with a banded pattern. As I get older, I darken up. I live near the water where I love to eat fish and frogs! When I'm scared, I try to get away. If I can't, I will bite to defend myself.



NON-VENOMOUS

Cornsnake/Red Rat Snake

I am a slender snake. I am usually orangish-brown or rust-colored, with dark red blotches on my back. I am semi-arboreal, so you could find me in a tree or on the ground. When scared, I will shake my tail and even "stand up" by coiling the front half of my body.



NON-VENOMOUS

Scarletsnake/ Scarlet Kingsnake

I am a skinny snake. I have pretty red blotches on my back that are separated by black and pale yellow bands. I live in dry places. I love to eat small lizards snakes and reptile eggs.



The Rattlesnake Conservancy

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