



# SNAKE

## OUR FRIEND

● PRADEEP KULKARNI



Translated by

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● Nature Friend Society

Snake - Our Friend  
Pradeep Kulkarni

English Translated by  
Neharika Vaibhav Chitnis

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Snakes on Cover page  
Main Photo -

*Amphiesma stolatum* (Pradeep Kulkarni)

Inset -

*Craspedocephalus gramineus* (Pradeep Kulkarni)




Snakes on page i

*Fowlea piscator* (Pradeep Kulkarni)

*Naja naja* (Avinash Raut)

*Calliophis melanurus* (Pradeep Kulkarni)

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## 1. Snake - our friend

Even though snakes are just like any other creatures they have many misunderstandings linked with them. Nature has given every living being some or the other special ability. The elephant is the strongest, the tiger and the lion have razor like sharp teeth, kite and falcon have a focused and a sharp vision; a honey bee has a sting, a monkey can jump from one tree to the other at its own will, a mouse can dig a hole, while a chameleon can change its color according to its surroundings to blend within.

These abilities help the creatures to find their prey as well as save them from their predators. It has been observed that a clear injustice has been done towards all snake species as, unlike other creatures, they have no limbs and not all species of snakes can emit or hear sound. And this is the reason why nature has given them the ability to slither away at a vigorous speed. The venomous snakes have their venom as a gift to kill and digest their prey. Snakes are very beautiful, simple and shy creatures.

The lack of knowledge about any creature leads to the spread of superstitions relating to it. This is the same case with snakes. We are still following those superstitions about them which our ancestors had passed onto their next generation because of lack of knowledge about snakes in older days. However, nowadays because of few TV channels, awareness about snakes has increased. This is the reason why, today, even children know that snakes do not have ears. Then the curiosity rouses about how do they listen? Do snakes retaliate? What does it eat? How does it digest its food? Do snakes have hair? Does a snake drink milk? These and other such questions

### **Common Sand Boa / *Eryx conicus***

Non venomous / ovoviviparous / average length - 24 inch



Pradeep

**Description:** It has a light brown color with ochre-colored spots of irregular shapes. It has a short tail with very rough scales like a wood file (A tool that a carpenter uses to shape a wood piece) and has small scales on its head. This snake is nocturnal. Being a constrictor, it squeezes its prey to death. When provoked it flattens its body and buries itself in sandy soil.

**Habitat:** In rat holes and rocky regions.

**Food:** lizards, rats.

## Common Krait / *Bungarus caeruleus*

Venomous / oviparous / average length - 36 inch



Pradeep

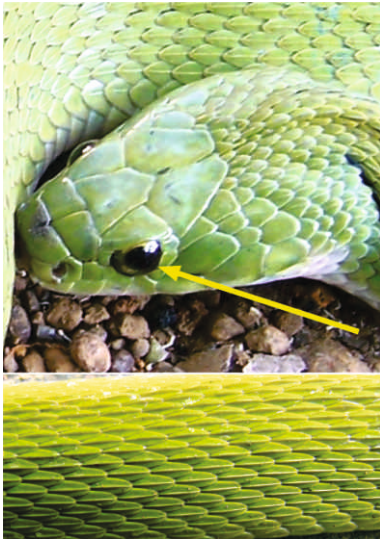
**Description:** This bluish black colored snake has shiny scales and horizontal white stripes on its body. These stripes originate as dots on its head and become strips towards its tail. It has elongated hexagonal scales at the central line at the dorsal side. This snake is nocturnal and is highly venomous in Asia.

**Habitat:** rocky regions, in piles of bricks or rocks.

**Food:** mostly snakes, rats, lizards and geckos.

**Green Keelback  
(Non-venomous)**

Rounded head  
Round pupil



**Three Green Snakes**

**Common Vine  
(Semi-venomous)**

Pointed head  
Horizontal pupil



**Bamboo Pit Viper  
(Venomous)**

Broad head with narrow neck  
Vertical pupil



Pradeep



14. What are heat sensing pits?

- A Python has these heat sensing pits between their mouth and nose and the Bamboo Pit Viper has it between the nose and its eyes. With the help of these pits, they can sense the minute difference in temperature as well as size of the prey in front of them.

15. Do snakes have a sharp vision?

- Snakes cannot see clearly beyond 10 to 15 feet.

16. Why do snakes shed their skin?

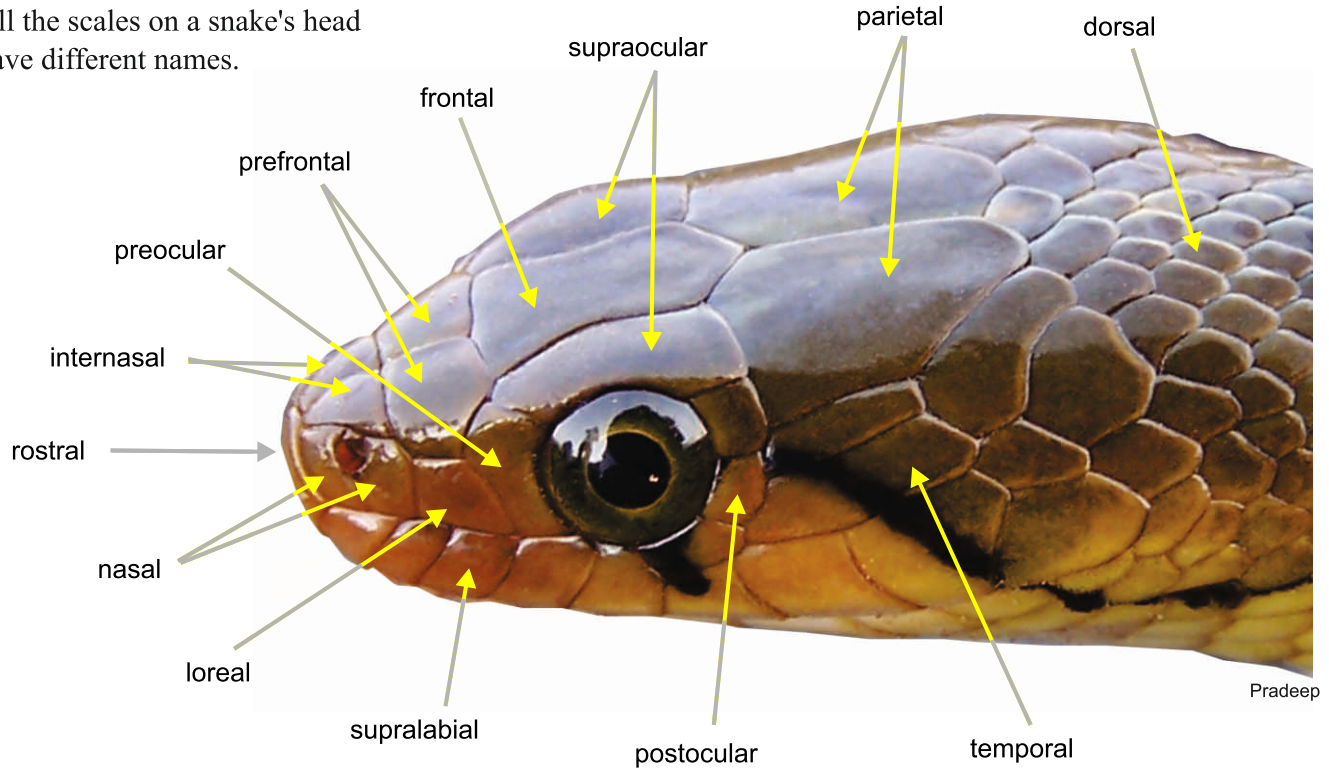
- Like mammals, snakes do not have sweat glands. Mammals can release unwanted and waste substances in the form of sweat. Snakes cannot do this. These waste substances keep on getting deposited on the body of the snake. After a sufficient layer is formed, snakes develop an oily substance on their skin which helps in reducing contact of the layer of newly formed skin with the older skin. Later, by brushing their head on a hard surface they remove the skin on their head. After this, the snake removes the skin on the rest of their body in the similar way we remove our socks

Internet





All the scales on a snake's head have different names.





Snakes are important  
part of Nature.

So it is our duty  
to save snakes.

Let's conserve this  
beautiful creature.

