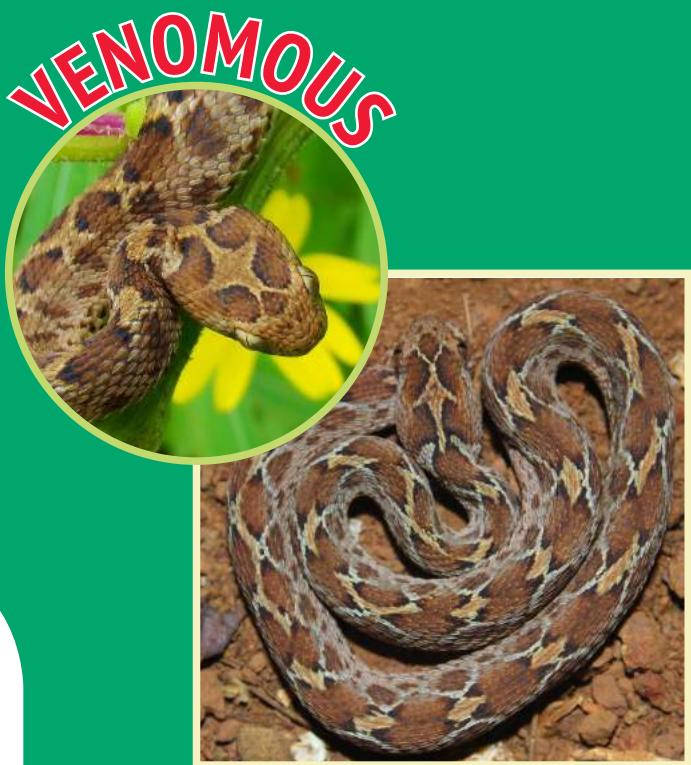


COMMON SNAKES OF CENTRAL INDIA

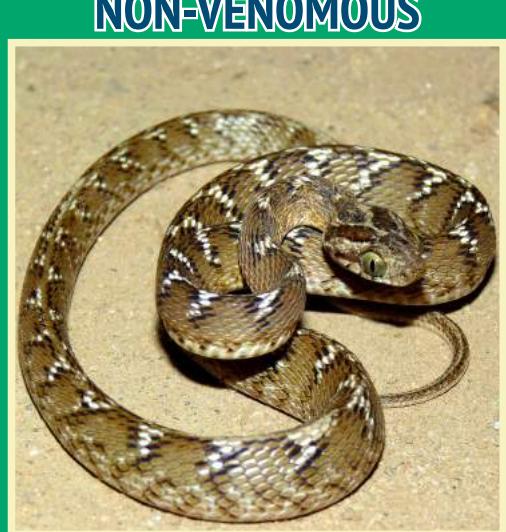
Snakes are cold-blooded animals that have been present on earth for the past 125 to 112 million years. They are distributed throughout the world except in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. About 2900 species of snakes are found on our planet, of which 600 species are venomous. India is home to over 278 species of snakes, of which only 61 are venomous., and is well known for the “Big Four” venomous snakes causing most human deaths: the Indian Cobra, Common Krait, Russel's Viper, and Saw-scaled Viper.

The reasons for death are usually lack of awareness and absence of timely and effective medical treatment.



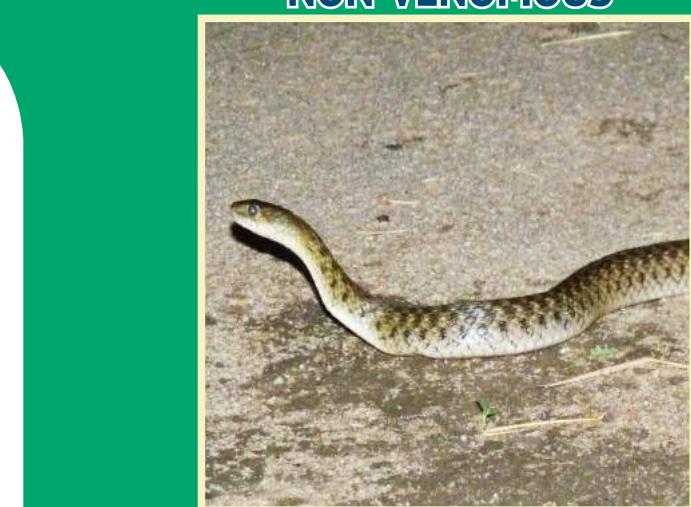
TO AVOID SNAKE BITES

- ✓ Keep the surroundings clean.
- ✓ Keep the house free of rats.
- ✓ Keep bags on a raised platform.
- ✓ Always check beddings and clothes before using them.
- ✓ If you see a snake, remain calm and immediately call a rescuer.
- ✓ Always wear shoes or gumboots when on field.
- ✓ If you are working late in the evening, carry a stick and torch.
- ✓ Always be cautious about any snake you see and give it enough space.



SNAKE SUPERSTITIONS

- Snakes do not drink milk. Snakes that are fed milk die soon.
- There is no snake pearl, it is often the snake's shining scales on the head.
- Snakes do not have beards, it is usually the snake skin which they moult as they grow in size.
- Snakes do not remember faces, nor do they take revenge.
- None of the snakes found in India can spit venom.
- Sand Boas do not have two heads.



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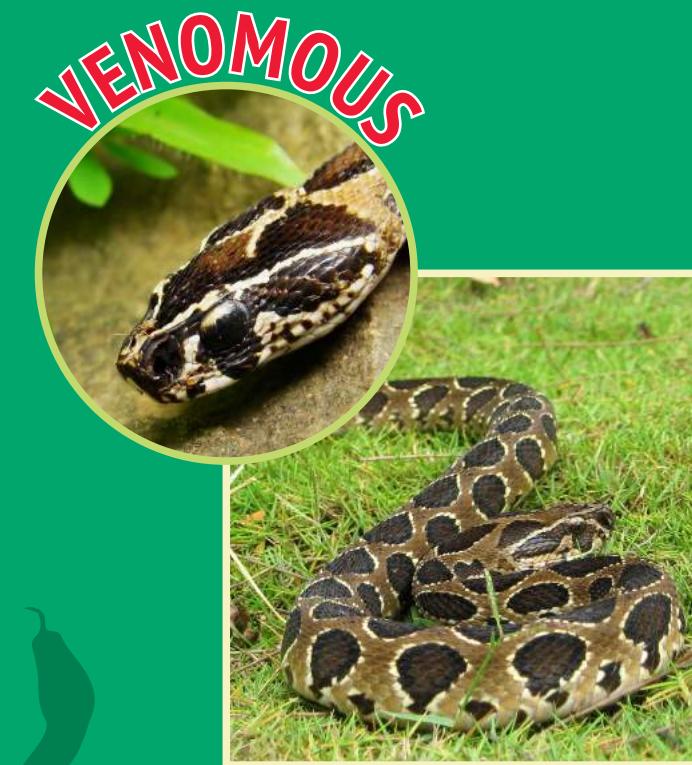
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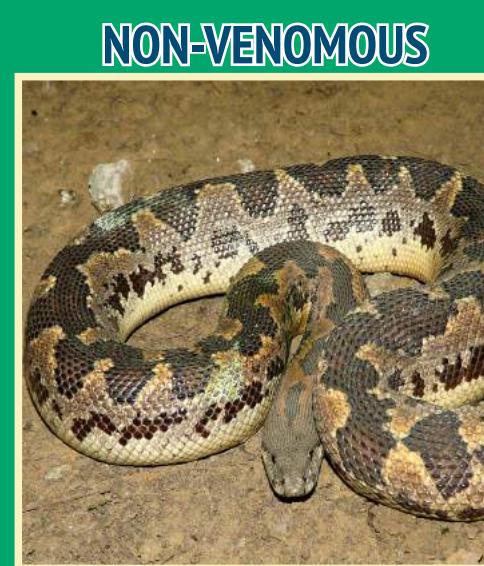
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DISCLAIMER: This poster only serves as a guide to the common snakes of Central India and gives basic primary first aid information in case of a snake bite. It should not be treated as a guide to treating snake bites. In case of a snake bite, the victim must be taken to the nearest hospital as soon as possible.



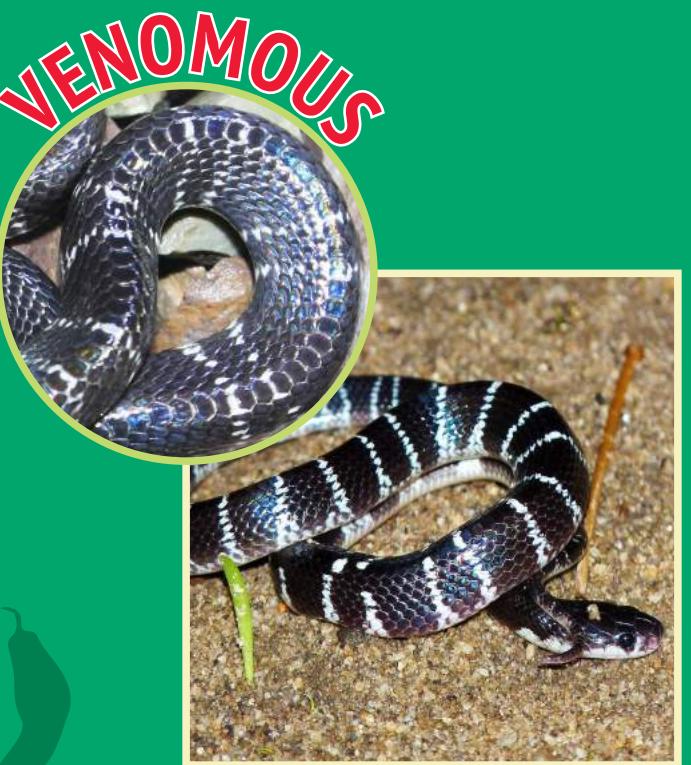
SAW-SCALED VIPER
Echis carinatus

Up to 0.4 m in length.
Distinct arrow-shaped mark on head.
Rubs scales when disturbed.
Feeds on lizards, frogs and mice.
Found under rocks, crevices and leaf litter.



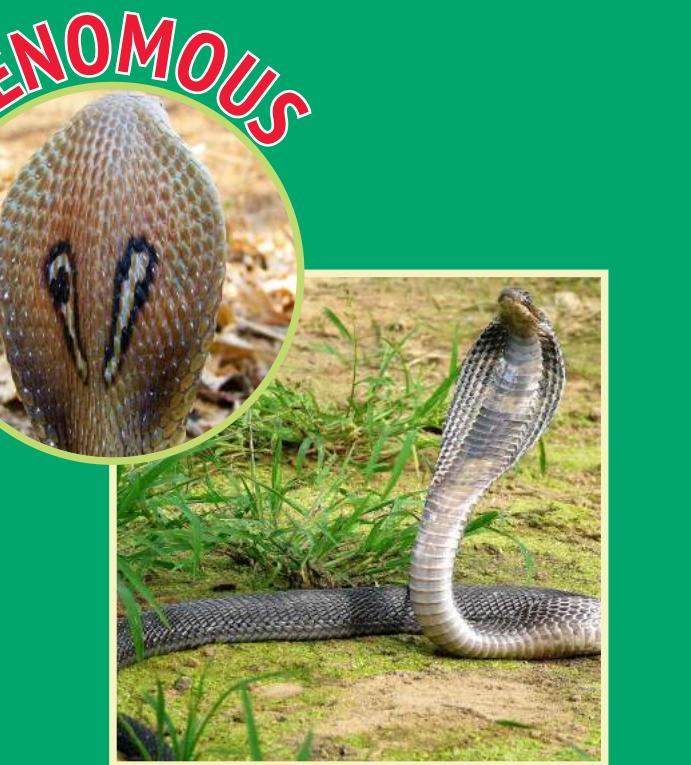
COMMON SAND BOA
Gongylophis conicus

Mistaken for Saw-scaled Viper.
Up to 0.4 to 0.7 m in length.
Usually at the base of shrubs and near forest floor.
Nocturnal in nature.
Coops into an 'S' to strike when threatened.
Feeds on lizards, frogs and mice.



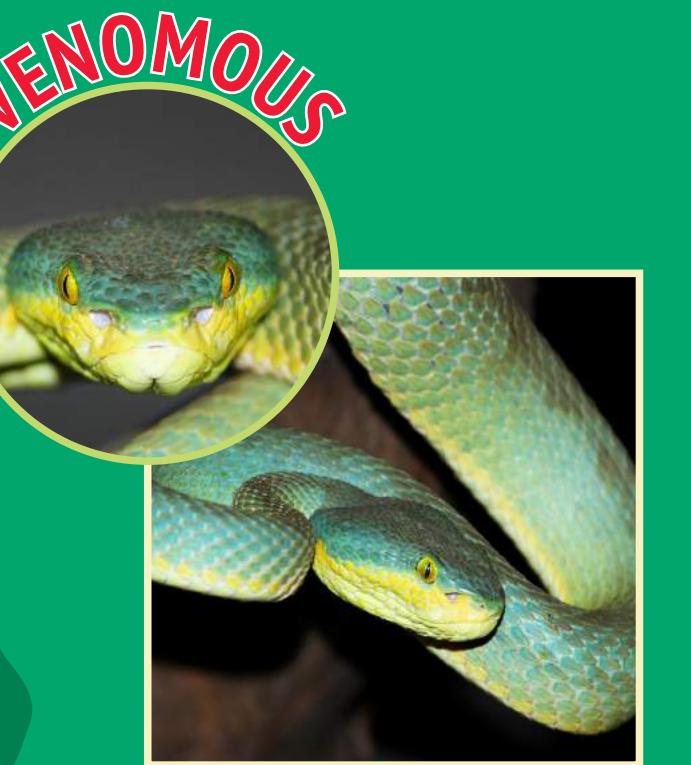
COMMON KRAIT
Bungarus caeruleus

Up to 1 m in length.
Black with single or pair of white bands.
Nocturnal in nature.
Distinct hexagonal scales on back.
Primarily feeds on rats.
Feeds on other snakes.



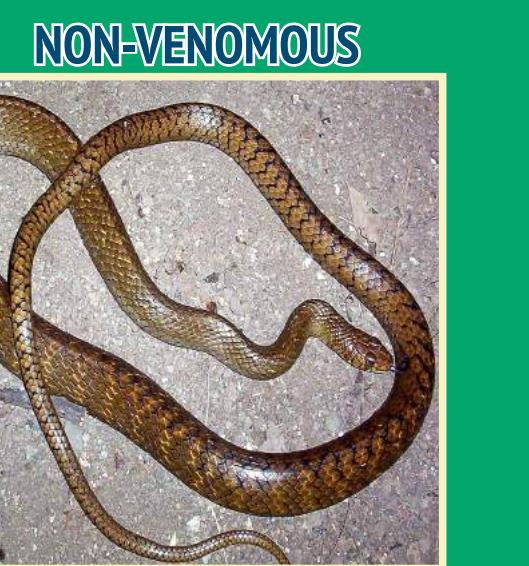
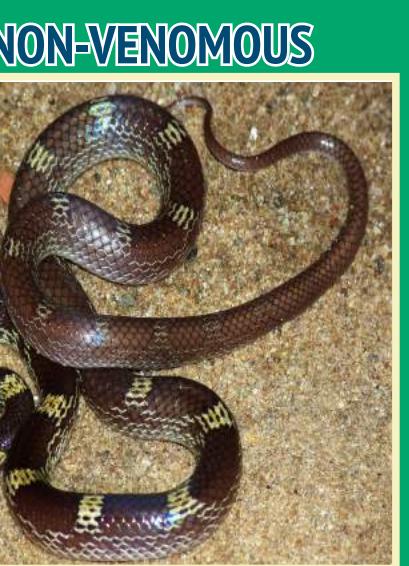
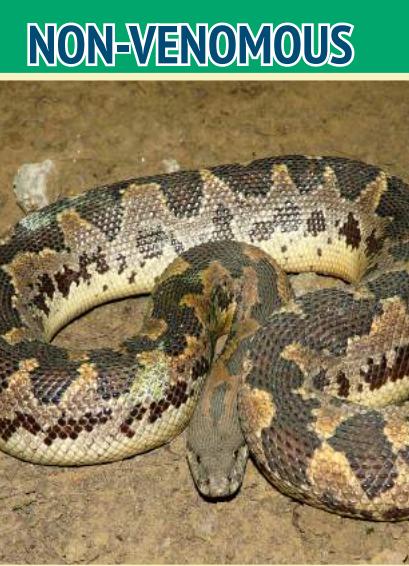
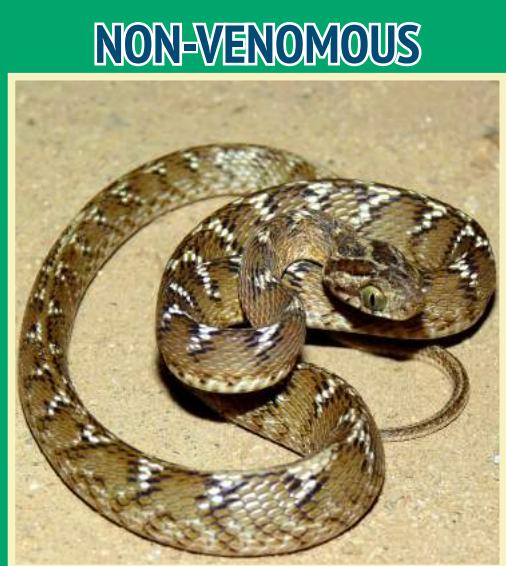
INDIAN COBRA
Naja naja

Up to 1 to 2 m in length.
Displays hood when disturbed.
Commonly found near rocks.
Primarily feeds on rats,
hence occasionally enters homes.



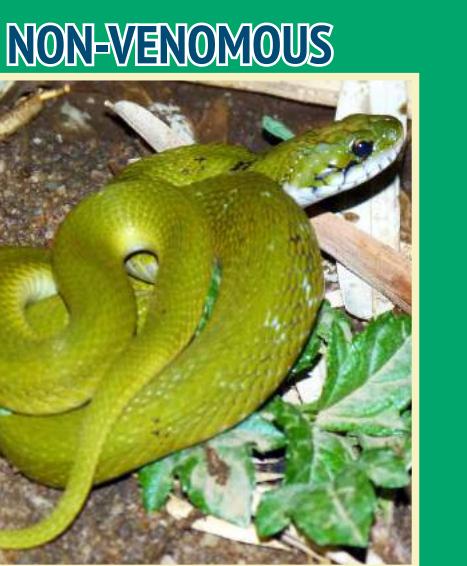
BAMBOO PIT VIPER
Trimeresurus gramineus

Up to 1 m in length.
Green in colour with a triangular head.
Stays close to the base of plants in wait of prey.
Primarily feeds on lizards and mice.
Hunts by ambush; active at night.



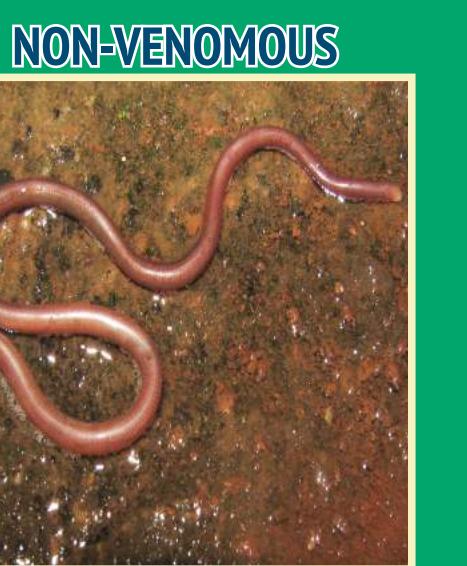
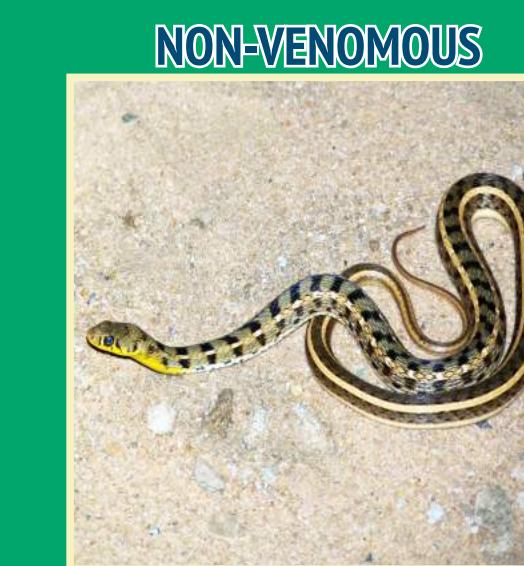
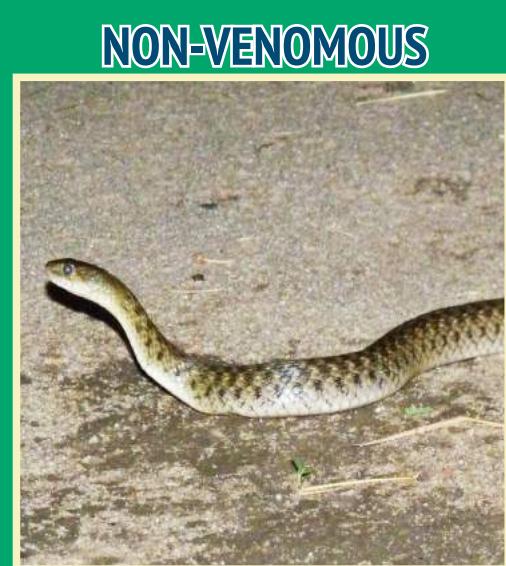
INDIAN RAT SNAKE
Ptyas mucosa

Mistaken for Indian Cobra.
Up to 2 m in length.
Commonly encountered snake, especially during day.
Black bands below eye and near mouth.
Excellent climber on walls and usually found hidden in crevices and holes.
Often seen in territorial fights in summer.



GREEN KEELBACK
Macropisthodon plumbicolor

Mistaken for Bamboo Pit Viper.
Up to 1 m in length.
Usually found in tall grass and open lands.
Calm by nature and seldom bites.
Feeds largely on toads and frogs.
Juveniles have black and yellow markings on head.



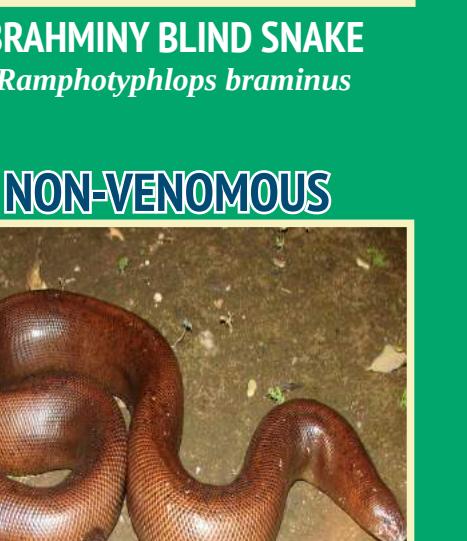
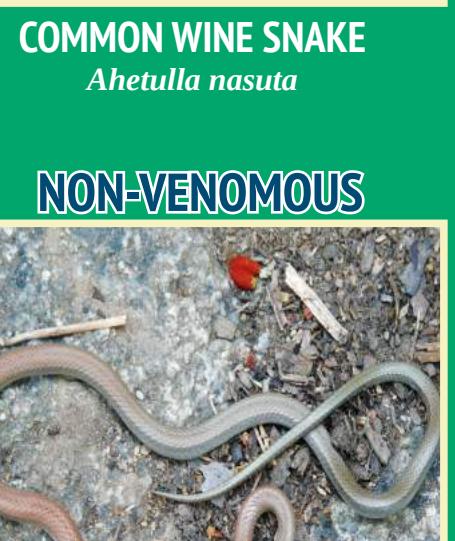
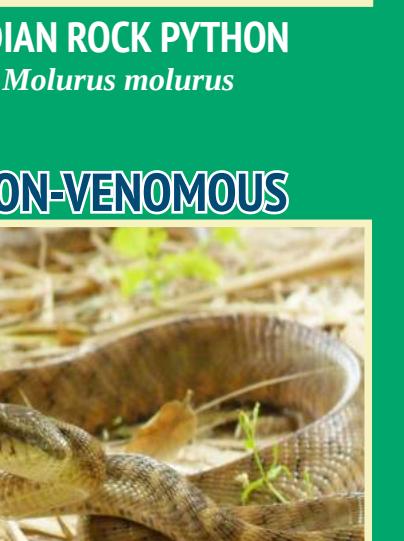
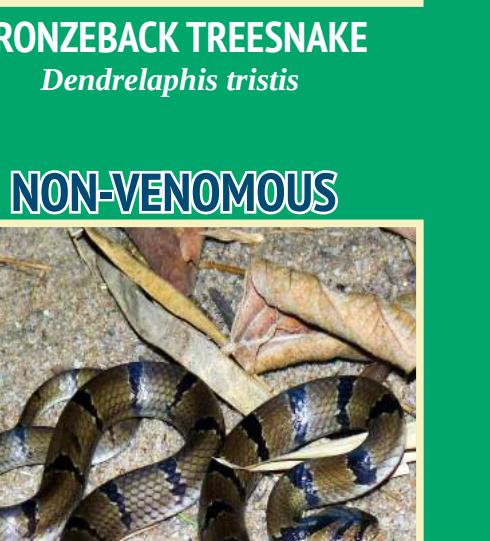
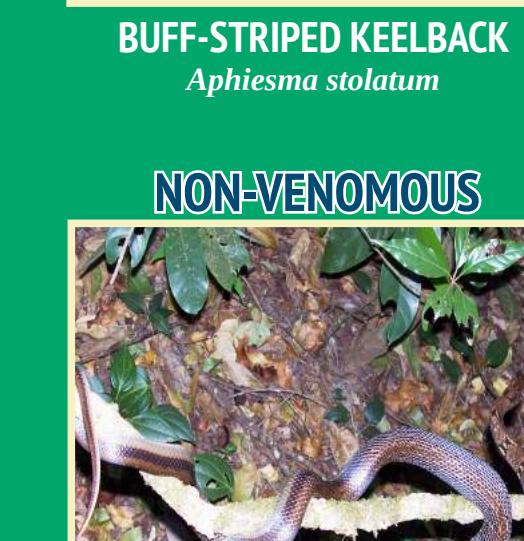
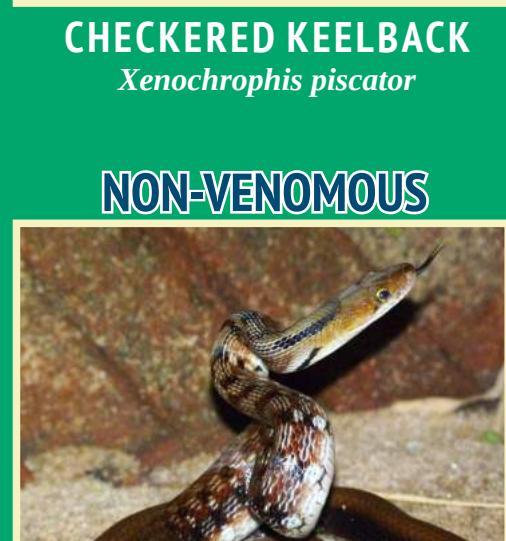
BUFF-STRIPED KEELBACK
Aphismos stolatum

BRONZEBACK TREESNAKE
Dendrelaphis tristis

INDIAN ROCK PYTHON
Python molurus

COMMON WINE SNAKE
Ahetulla nasuta

BRAHMINY BLIND SNAKE
Ramphotyphlops braminus



CHECKERED KEELBACK
Xenochrophis piscator

MONTANE TRINKET SNAKE
Coelognathus helena monticollaris

COMMON KUKRI
Oligodon arnensis

FOSTERN'S CAT SNAKE
Boiga forsteni

CANTOR'S BLACKHEADED SNAKE
Sibynophis sagittarius

RED SAND BOA
Eryx johnii

POST SNAKE BITE CARE

- DOs:**
- ✓ Keep the victim calm with minimum movements.
 - ✓ Remove any tight items such as watches or socks.
 - ✓ Monitor vital signs like perspiration and fever.
 - ✓ Take the victim to the nearest treatment centre as soon as possible.

- DON'Ts:**
- ✗ Do not capture the snake.
 - ✗ Do not cut near the bitten area.
 - ✗ Do not tie a cloth near the bitten area.
 - ✗ Do not try to suck out the venom.
 - ✗ Do not apply ice.
 - ✗ Do not rely on local shamans.

ROLE OF SNAKES

- Snakes are the best pest controllers in farm lands.
- Snakes are indicators of a healthy ecosystem.
- All snakes are predatory in nature but also form an important part of the diet of many birds and mammals.
- Snake antivenom is produced using snake's venom. It is the only medicine known to be effective in treating a snake bite victim.

NEAREST TREATMENT CENTRE