

# REPTILES OF THE



# PANTANAL

order TESTUDINES  
Turtles & Tortoises

*Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) carbonaria*  
Red-footed Tortoise  
family TESTUDINIDAE



*Acanthochelys macrocephala*  
Pantanal Swamp Turtle  
family CHELIDAE



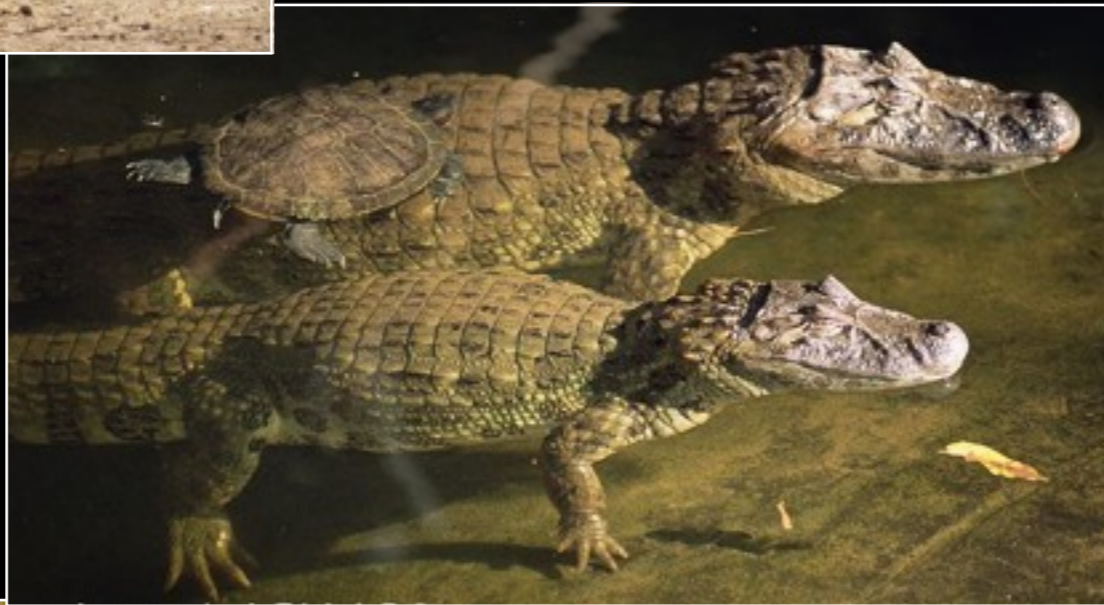
order CROCODYLIA  
Crocodilians



*Caiman yacare*  
Yacare or Paraguayan Caiman  
family ALLIGATORIDAE



*Caiman latirostris*  
Broad-snouted Caiman  
family ALLIGATORIDAE



order SQUAMATA  
Amphisbaenids or  
Worm Lizards





*Amphisbaena alba*  
?  
family AMPHISBAENIDAE



*Marina Marchezini*



*Amphisbaena leeseri*

?

family AMPHISBAENIDAE

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

*Amphisbaena neglecta*

?

family AMPHISBAENIDAE

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE



Araputanga Mato Grosso, Brazil

*Amphisbaena silvestrii*  
?  
family AMPHISBAENIDAE

*Amphisbaena vermicularis*  
?  
family AMPHISBAENIDAE



order SQUAMATA  
Lizards



*Iguana iguana*  
Green Iguana  
family IGUANIDAE



*Polychrus acutirostris*  
Brazilian Bush Anole  
or  
Point-nosed False Chameleon  
family POLYCROTIDAE







*Tropidurus guarani*  
Guarani Spiny Lizard  
family TROPIDURIDAE





*Tropidurus torquatus*  
Eastern Collared Spiny Lizard  
family TROPIDURIDAE



*Hemidactylus mabouia*  
Tropical House Gecko  
family GEKKONIDAE



*Ameiva ameiva*  
Green Jungle Runner  
family TEIIDAE





Cristiano Nogueira



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*Bachia bresslaui*  
Bresslau's Bachia  
family TEIIDAE



Araputanga Mato Grosso,  
Brazil



*Bachia dorbignyi*  
Dorbigny's Bachia  
family TEIIDAE



*Cnemidophorus ocellifer*  
Spotted Whiptail Lizard  
family TEIIDAE



*Dracaena paraguayensis*  
Cayman Lizard  
family TEIIDAE







*Kentropyx viridistriga*  
Green Kentropyx  
family TEIIDAE



*Teius teyou*  
Four-toed Whiptail Lizard  
family TEIIDAE





*Tupinambis merianae*  
Black Tegu  
family TEIIDAE



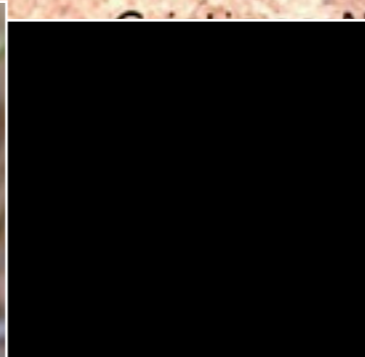


*Tupinambis rufescens*  
Red Tegu  
family TEIIDAE

*Tupinambis teguxin*  
Golden Tegu  
family TEIIDAE



*Cercosaura* (= *Pantodactylus*)  
*schreibersii*  
Schreiber's Spectacled Lizard  
family TEIIDAE





*Micrablepharus maximiliani*  
Maximillian's Blue-tailed Microteiid  
family GYMNOPHTHALMIDAE





*Mabuya frenata*  
Bridled Skink  
family SCINCIDAE







*Mabuya guaporicola*  
Striped Skink  
family SCINCIDAE



*Mabuya nigropunctata*  
(Black-spotted?) Skink  
family SCINCIDAE





*Ophiodes striatus*  
?  
family ANGUIDAE



Transpantaneira -  
26 August 2014

*Ophiodes yacupoi*

?

family ANGUIDAE

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order SQUAMATA  
Snakes



*Typhlops brongersmianus*  
Brongersma's Blind Snake  
family TYPHLOPIDAE





*Liotyphlops ternetzii*  
Ternetz's Blind Snake  
family ANOMALEPEDIDAE

*Boa constrictor*  
Boa Constrictor or Red-tailed Boa  
family BOIDAE







*Epicrates cenchria crassus*  
Rainbow Boa  
family BOIDAE





*Eunectes murinus*  
Green Anaconda  
family BOIDAE



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*Eunectes notaeus*

Yellow Anaconda  
family BOIDAE





*Chironius laurenti*  
? Sipo  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE





*Chironius quadricarinatus*

?

family COLUBRIDAE

subfamily COLUBRINAE





*Drymarchon corais*  
Indigo Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE





*Leptophis ahaetulla*  
Parrot Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE



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*Mastogodryas bifossatus*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE







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*Mastogodryas boddaerti*

?

family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE





*Simophis rhinostoma*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE





*Spilotes pullatus*  
Tiger Rat Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE

photo: Kim Klisak



*Tantilla melanocephala*  
Blackhead Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily COLUBRINAE



Carlos Cândido

*Apostolepis sp.*

?

family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Atractus paraguayensis*  
or  
*Atractus reticulatus paraguayensis*  
Paraguayan Tellurian Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Clelia bicolor*

?

family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE

*Clelia clelia*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE







*Helicops leopardinus*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Hydrodynastes gigas*  
False Water Cobra  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Hydrops caesurus*  
Mud Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE

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*Liophis almadensis*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Liophis (=Erythrolamprus) longiventris*

Long Ground Snake

family COLUBRIDAE

subfamily DIPSADINAE

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

*Liophis (=Erythrolamprus) poecilogyrus*  
Stripe-bellied Smooth Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Liophis reginae*, Peru  
© Claudia Koch, Samnok@gmx.de



*Liophis (=Erythrolamprus) reginae*

?

family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



Jairo H. Maldonado





*Liophis (=Lygophis) meridionalis*

?

family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Liophis typhlus elaeoides*  
Velvet Swamp Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Oxyrhopus petola*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Oxyrhopus rhombifer*  
Diamondback Flame Snake or  
Amazon False Coral Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



## DIAMONDBACK FLAME SNAKE

*Oxyrhopus rhombifer*

Named for the rhomboid pattern on the dorsal surface this is one of a number of non-venomous snakes that mimic the deadly Coral Snakes of the family *Micruridae* - though admittedly it is one of the less convincing mimics!. This species inhabits dry areas in the Chaco and southern Paraguay, where it is terrestrial and nocturnal. Extremely tame, this species makes no attempt to bite, relying on its mimicry for defense.

*Oxyrhopus rhombifer*

Diamondback Flame Snake or  
Amazon False Coral Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE

*Phalotris matogrossensis*  
Mato Grosso Burrowing Snake or False  
Coral Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



## **MATO GROSSO BURROWING SNAKE**

*Phalotris matogrossensis*

Subterranean by design, this boldly-marked snake is rarely seen. In fact it is a recently described species, split from the more widespread Tricoloured Burrowing Snake *Phalotris tricolor*. This species is generally associated with cerrado habitats in north-eastern Paraguay but can be relatively easily distinguished from *P.tricolor* by concentrating on two characteristics. First note that the black neck band of *matogrossensis* is thinner than or equal in length to the yellowish neck band - it is much longer in *tricolor*; Second note that the white neck band extends forwards slightly at the sides in this species and not in *tricolor*.

*Phalotris matogrossensis*

Mato Grosso Burrowing Snake or  
False Coral Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE

*Phalotris mertensi*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Philodryas offersii*  
Lichtenstein's Green Racer  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





Synonyms:

*Coluber Olfersii* Lichtenstein, 1823

*Coluber pileatus* Wied, 1824

*Dryophylax Olfersii* Duméril & Bibron, 1854

*Philodryas Olfersii* Boulenger, 1886

*Coluber herbeus* Wied, 1824

*Philodryas carbonelli* Roze, 1957

*Philodryas argentinus* Müller, 1924

*Chlorosoma olfersi* Serié, 1936

Sub-species:

*Philodryas olfersii olfersii* Lichtenstein, 1823

*Philodryas olfersii herbeus* WIED 1825

*Philodryas olfersii latirostris* (COPE 1862)

Lenght : 1,1 to 1,4 meter.

Biotope : this species seems to prefer the zones of savannas or degraded forest and the zones cultivated.

Behaviour: they move really quickly through land, with the head and the first portion of the body down up. They are also climbers and good swimmers. On the trees they reach the highest part, where they hides thanks to the green color of their body. They have also been seen near human dwellings, climbed on fences. **VERY AGGRESSIVE SPECIES.**

Reproduction: in december the female lay from 7 to 8 eggs, attached between them. Snakes are born in March.

Distribution : Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, french Guyana, Venezuela.

Remarks: This arboreal species eat little mammals, birds, lizards, frogs and also of snakes killed by venom action. It's an aggressive species of which it is advisable to be wary because of high toxic venom.

*P. olfersii* is distinguished from *P. viridissima* by less low number of ventral and sub-caudal scales.

*P. viridissima*: ventral scales (>205) ; sub-caudal scales (>115)

*P. olfersii*: ventral scales (<195) ; sub-caudal scales (<110)

## LICHTENSTEIN'S GREEN RACER

### *Philodryas olfersii*

This bright green snake is somewhat arboreal in behaviour, his colouration affording him excellent camouflage as he makes his way through the branches of the trees. However he is equally at home on the ground where he moves rapidly across open areas. This species is poisonous, its toxic saliva subduing prey. It prefers to use its speed to escape, but when cornered it does not hesitate to strike, giving a painful bite that has even been recorded as causing occasional mortalities.



*Philodryas patagoniensis*  
Patagonian Racer  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Platynion (=Philodryas) lividum*  
Cerrado Racer  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE

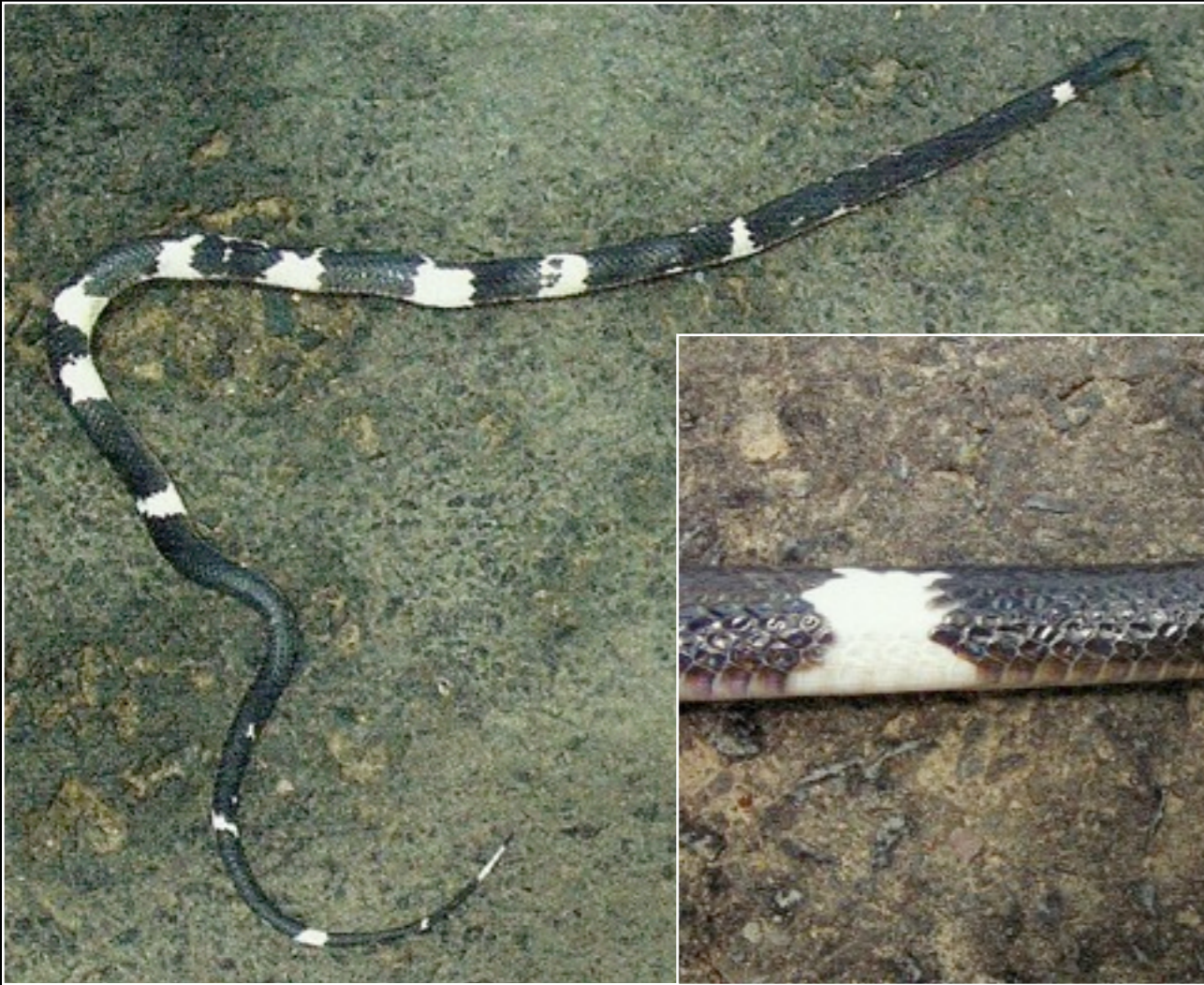


*Phalotris (=Elapomorphus) tricolor*  
Tricolored Burrowing Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Pseudablades agassizii*  
Scorpion Snake or  
Burrowing Night Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Pseudoboa nigra*  
Cerrado False Boa  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Pseudoeryx plicatilis*  
South American  
Pond Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



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*Pseustes sulphureus*  
Amazon Puffing Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE







*Psomophis genimaculatus*

?

family COLUBRIDAE

subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Sibynomorphus mikanii mikanii*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Sibynomorphus turgidus*  
Tigrada Slug-eating Snake  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Taeniophalus occipitalis*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Thamnodynastes chaquensis*

Chaco Sepia Snake

family COLUBRIDAE

subfamily DIPSADINAE

A small, brownish snake reaching a maximum of 80cm. Note the unusual blunt head of *Thamnodynastes* snakes which gives them a distinctive profile. However within the *Thamnodynastes* group identification can be rather more difficult and you'll need to look closely at the scales! This species is confined to the Chaco where it overlaps with others but can be identified by the fact that its scales possess a medial quill.



*Thamnodynastes hypoconia*

Keeled Sepia Snake

family COLUBRIDAE

subfamily DIPSADINAE

A small, brownish snake reaching a maximum of 80 cm. Note the unusual blunt head of *Thamnodynastes* snakes which gives them a distinctive profile. However within the *Thamnodynastes* group identification can be rather more difficult and you'll need to look closely at the scales! This species is paler than *T.strigatus* and can be identified by the fact that its scales possess a medial keel.



Foto: S. Carreira



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*Thamnodynastes lanei*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Tomodon dorsatus*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Xenodon (=Waglerophis) merremii*

Toad-eating Snake

family COLUBRIDAE

subfamily DIPSADINAE



As his name suggests the diet of this snake consists mainly of amphibians. Having no venom of his own, his main defense is to mimic the deadly *Bothrops* vipers - don't take any chances with what you think is a Toad-eating Snake unless you are 100% sure of the identification - you might live (or die!) to regret it if you are wrong and it is a *Bothrops*! If his imitation doesn't work his next defence is to flatten the whole body and hiss loudly - this threat display is usually enough to dissuade wouldbe predators. This is an extremely variable species.

*Xenodon neuwiedii*  
?  
family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE





*Xenodon (=Paroxyrhopus) cf. undulatus*

?

family COLUBRIDAE  
subfamily DIPSADINAE



*Bothropoides (=Bothrops) matogrossensis*  
Mato Grosso Lancehead  
family VIPERIDAE



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*Bothrops moojeni*  
Brazilian Lancehead  
family VIPERIDAE



*Bothrops moojeni*  
Brazilian Lancehead  
family VIPERIDAE

The pit viper *Bothrops moojeni* occurs throughout the Cerrado region of central and southeastern Brazil, mainly in open and forested riparian areas (Nogueira, Sawaya and Martins, 2003; Campbell and Lammar, 2004). This terrestrial lancehead has a generalist diet that includes mammals, frogs, lizards, snakes, birds and centipedes, also presenting an ontogenetic diet shift (Andrade, Abe and Santos, 1996), with adults preying more frequently on mammals.

Distribution:

Brazil (Piaui, Parana, Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Goias, Maranhao, Bahia),  
E Bolivia,  
E Paraguay (Canindeyu etc.),  
Argentina (Misiones)

Taxonomic note:

May be conspecific with *Bothrops atrox*.



*Crotalus durissus*  
Tropical Rattlesnake  
family VIPERIDAE



# *Crotalus durissus*

## Tropical Rattlesnake

### family VIPERIDAE

It goes without saying that the Rattlesnake should be treated with the utmost of respect. It is the owner of a deadly neurotoxin that claims a massive 75% mortality if the bite is untreated, reduced to only 15% with the immediate administration of the correct anti-venin. Fortunately the Rattlesnake is a sluggish, non-aggressive beast. Venom production is energetically expensive and he is not keen to waste his reserves biting something he can't then eat! If you come too close he will warn you, shaking the hard scales at the tip of his tail to produce a warning sound - the rattle. Provided you then back off and let the snake retreat a safe distance you are in no danger.

#### **Habitat and Ecology:**

This species inhabits a broad range of habitats, ranging from dry sparsely vegetated stony areas or desert, to savanna and grasslands (M. Martins pers. comm. 2010). It may occasionally be found in forest, although this is not a preferred habitat. It feeds almost exclusively on mammals, eating lizards only rarely (less than 5% of the diet) (M. Martins pers. comm. 2010).





*Micrurus frontalis pyrrhocryptus*  
or *M. pyrrhocryptus*  
Southern Coral Snake  
family ELAPIDAE

This is a large coral snake capable of inflicting a deadly bite, though perhaps fortunately very reluctant to do so! When threatened this species may hide the head and raise the tail, curling it around to attract attention. Any predator dim enough to try to grab the tail as a result, earns itself a nasty surprise! This is a diurnal, terrestrial snake of forested areas.





*Micrurus tricolor*

?

family ELAPIDAE