



What's that snake?

A photographic guide to the snakes of IISER-TVM



Is that a Snake?

Body covered with scales

Has no legs

No external ears

General fact: Snakes are cold blooded, which means that their body temperature depends on the external environment. So, snakes have to regularly bask in the sun when its cold or hide from the sun when its warm.

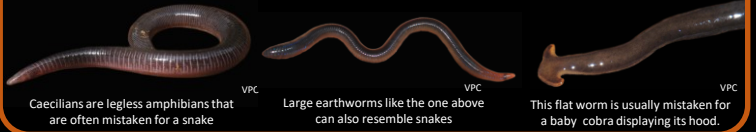


Hill Keelback basking in the sun



Rat Snake hiding in leaf litter

IF IT AIN'T GOT SCALES, IT AIN'T NO SNAKE!



Caecilians are legless amphibians that are often mistaken for a snake.

Large earthworms like the one above can also resemble snakes

This flat worm is usually mistaken for a baby cobra displaying its hood.

Harmless snakes found in IISER-TVM

Bramini Worm Snake (*Indotyphlops braminus*)



Barred Shieldtail Snake (*Uropeltis myhendrae*)



Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*)



Common Vine Snake (*Ahatulla nasuta*)



Collard Cat Snake (*Boiga nuchalis*)



Forstens Cat Snake (*Boiga forsteni*)



Bronzeback Tree Snake (*Dendrelaphis chairecacos*)



Giri's Bronzeback Tree Snake (*Dendrelaphis giri*)



Captain's Wood Snake (*Xylophis captaini*)



Beddome's Keelback (*Hebius beddomei*)



Hill Keelback (*Hebius monticola*)



Checked Keelback (*Xenochrophis piscator*)



Buff-striped Keelback (*Amphiesma stolatum*)



Common Kukri (*Oligodon arvensis*)



Russell's Kukri (*Oligodon taeniolatus*)



Common Wolf Snake (*Lycodon aulicus*)



Montane Trinket Snake (*Coelognathus helena monticollaris*)



Indian Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*)

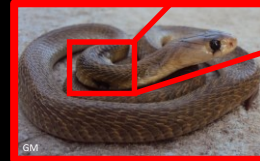


Venomous Snakes and their lookalikes found in IISER-TVM

Venomous snakes

Spectacled Cobra (*Naja naja*)

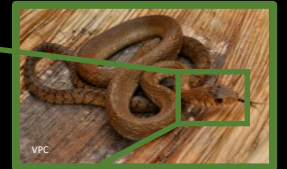
- Has a prominent hood
- Spectacle markings on the neck



Harmless snakes

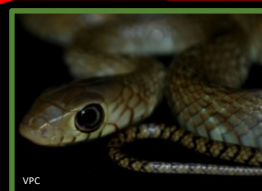
Indian Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*)

- No hood
- Usually has black striations on the tail
- Has prominent stripes running down the eyes



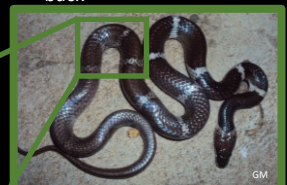
Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*)

- Black with white bands
- No prominent neck
- Scales on the back large and hexagonal



Common Wolf Snake (*Lycodon aulicus*)

- Black or brown with white bands
- Has a prominent neck
- Small rhomboid scales on the back



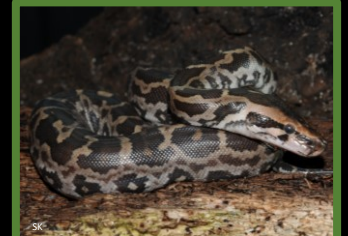
Russell's Viper (*Daboia russelii*)

- Triangular head
- Three rows of '8' shaped or chain-like markings on the back



Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*)

- Large-bodied snake
- Irregular dark brown patterns on the back



Pit Vipers

- Colour variable from brown to reddish-brown to green
- Triangular head with small scales
- Short and stout body



Hump-nosed Pit Viper (*Hypnale hypnale*)



Malabar Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus malabaricus*)

Cat Snakes

- Colour usually brown with darker cross-bars
- Triangular head with large scales
- Thin and long body



Oh My! What do I do?

Step 1

Do not panic. Leave the snake alone and it will be on its way

Step 2

If the snake does not move away, keep a safe distance and enjoy watching the snake

Step 3

Call the authorities and inform them about the snake.



Control Desk
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9446898159