

SNAKE HOUSES

INTRODUCTION

- A snake home is called a nest or a burrow depending on the particular type of snake.
- A nest represents the home of a snakes that lives alone.
- A den is a home for snake that live communally.
- They are named houses snakes as thye are frequently found around human dwelling feeding on the rodents that congregate around human waste.
- Snakes live in a wide variety of habitats including forest , swamps , grassland , deserts , and in both fresh and salt water.
- Some are active at night some during the day.
- Snakes are predators and eat a wide variety of animals including :-
 1. Rodents
 2. Insects
 3. Birds
 4. Eggs
 5. Young birds

TYPES OF SNAKE HOUSES

- Snakes live in :-
 1. Mud
 2. Water
 3. Sand
 4. Tree
 5. Nest

1.) MUD HOUSE :-

- Best suitable mud for snake houses are Red coloured mud or soil.



2.) WATER:-

- Snakes live in both marine water and fresh water.



3.) TREE

- Snakes of the rain forest are well adapted to an arboral or tree dwelling existence .
- Many have long thin bodies with angled scales on their bellies which helps the snakes to grip branches.



4.) SAND :-

- Snakes live in holes these holes found in grass in piles of dirt or sand , or under piles of logs or sticks.



5.) SNAKE NEST :-

- The female snake is about 13 feet long builds a nest to lay its eggs.
- The King cobra is the only snake in the world that build a nest .



- Snakes sometime burrow in walls and crawlspaces in home to nest and lay eggs in the winter month.
- Snakes and their prey can create breeding and overwintering habitat in the large rocks & landscape.

SNAKES

INTRODUCTION

- Snakes are cylindrical long limbless and cold blooded reptiles .
- The body of the snakes divided into .-
 - i. Head
 - ii. Trunk
 - iii. Tail
- In India about 275 species are found and among them about 62 are poisonous.
- 42 are mildly venomous 172 as non venomous.
- Out of 62 venomous species 42 are seen on land and 20 in the sea.

TYPES OF SNAKES

- They are two types of snakes. :-
 - i. Poisonous snake
 - ii. Non poisonous snake

COMMON POISONOUS SNAKES IN INDIA

- i. Cobras : common cobra and king cobra.
- ii. Kraits : common kraits and banded kraits.
- iii. Vipers : Russels viper and saw scaled viper.
- iv. Sea snake : banded sea snake and amphibians sea snakes.

COMMON NON POISONOUS SNAKES IN INDIA

- i. Rat snake (Dhaman)
- ii. Vine snake

- iii. Bronze back tree snake
- iv. Sand boa
- v. Banded kukri

FEATURES OF POISONOUS SNAKES

- Scale on the head are usually smaller.
- Scales on the belly are larger.
- Fangs are long grooved or canalized.
- Teeth two long fangs.
- Tail is compressed.
- Poisonous snakes are nocturnal in nature.
- Bite Marks two marks to fangs with or without marks of other smaller teeth.

FEATURE OF NONPOISONOUS SNAKES

- Scales on the head are large.
- Scales on the belly are small.
- Fangs are short and solid.
- Teeth are numerous but small.
- Tail is not markedly compressed.
- Non poisonous snake are not nocturnal in nature.
- Bite marks numerous teeth in row.

TYPES OF VENOM

- Hemotoxic venom.
- Neurotoxic venom.
- Myotoxic venom.
- Cytotoxic venom.

FEATURE OF COMMON POISONOUS SNAKES IN INDIA

1. COMMON COBRA

ZOOLOGICAL NAME :- Naja naja

COMMON NAME :- Common cobra



- Common cobra are usually brown or black in colour.
- Head is covered by shield.
- Pupils are rounds.
- Hood is present dorsal aspect of hood may have binocellate mark.

- **VENOM:-** Neurotoxic
- Fangs are short grooved and situated anteriorly the length is about 5-10mm.
- Tail is cylindrical.
- Cobra is good swimmer.
- The indian cobra is native to the indian subcontinent and can be found through out indian ,Pakistan ,srilanka ,Bangladesh and southern Nepal.
- Pain at bite site –some pain present at bite site.
- Female cobra lays between 10 and 30 eggs in abandoned rat hole or termite mounds.
- Through do not hatch but female stays with eggs until they the eggs hatch an about 60 days.
- The hatchlings [new born] are independent from birth and have fully functional venom glands.

COMMON COBRA FEEDING HABITS:-

- Its is typically opportunistic hunters chowing down on whatever prey comes their way.
- After eat birds small mammals lizards eggs carrions.
- The cobra can be confused with the indian rat snake [ptyas mucosa].

2. KING KOBRA :-

- **ZOOLOGICAL NAME :-** Ophiophagus Hannah
- **COMMON NAME :-**

BENGALI :- Sankha char

TAMIL :- Karinagam

LATIN WORDS :-

Ophedia :- Snake

Phagus :- Snake feeding or snakes



- Snake have magnificent look.
- In India it is found in forests of the western Ghats in state of Karnataka , Goa , Kerala, Tamil nadu.
- Also found in forests and estuaries of Uttar Pradesh , Bihar ,Odissa , West Bengal and north east part of India up to Arunachal Pradesh as well as in the Andaman Islands.
- It is having black ,grey, dark olive green, or yellowish brown in colour there are white or yellowish cross bands over the entire length over body.
- However band less form of snakes is found in Arunachal Pradesh . hood is large but narrow.
- Its only Indian snake that builds nest5 to lay its eggs.

HABITAT :-

These snakes live in dense highland forests bamboo thickets mangrove, swamps, and Even agriculture areas.

KING KOBRA FEEDING HABITS :-

- the king cobras diet consists largely of cold blooded animals particularly other snakes.
- King cobra rarely hunt vertebrates like rodents and lizards.
- A king cobra may develop a sigid diet of single snake species and may suffuse and other snake species.
- The king cobra possesses a potent neurotoxic venom and death can occur in as little as 30 minutes after being bitten.

KRAIT

COMMON KRAIT :-

Zoological name :- bangarus caeruleus

Common name :- Indian krait, common krait

Hindi :-kavayat

Marathi :- maniyar.

Gujrati :- kala taro

Bengali :- kalaz chitti

- **Usually steel blue or** bluish gray or glossy black or brownish black in colour with whitish cross bands on back cover entire length.



HABITAT :- krait usually takes up residence inside house.

- It has an affinity for water and is often seen in water troughs in courtyards and gardens.
- It is nocturnal in habitat.
- Pupils are round.
- Large hexagonal scales present over the back.
- The 4th infralabial scale is the largest scale of other infralabial scales.
- Fangs are short, grooved, and situated anteriorly.
- The length is about 2-4 m.

VENOM :- Neurotoxic

FEEDING HABITS :-

- Common kraits feed primarily on other snakes, including blind snakes, and cannibalize other kraits, including the young. They also feed on small mammals like lizards and frogs.
- The young are known to eat arthropods.

RUSSELL'S VIPER :-

ZOOLOGICAL NAME :- *Daboia russelli*

COMMON NAME :- Chain snake

HINDI :- Kander

MARATHI :- Ghonas

GUJARATI :- Bora

TAMIL :- Kannadiviriyan



- Found throughout India.
- Female give birth to about 6-63 young ones between may and july.
- Head is large , flat and triangular with small scales .
- Pupil are vertical .
- Body scales are semielliptical.
- Tail are narrow and short . scales are divided into two rows.
- Fangs are long , curved ,hollow, channelized and hinged.
- The length about 25 mm.

SEA SNAKES



- About 20 species of sea snakes are found in india .
- Sea snakes are usually bluish , greyish , or , greenish in color.

- They have prominent nostrils and are situated on the top of snout .
- Most of the snakes live in shallow water .
- They can not remain under water for more than half an hour at a time .
- Unlike fishes they have to come to the surface for breathing .
- Most of the sea snakes are helpless on land and some snakes can crawl slowly .
- Body is flat and belly scales are not broad .
- Tail is flattened and paddle shaped .
- Most of the sea snakes are highly venomous .
- **VENOM** -Myotoxic

VENOM COMPOSITION :-

- Snake venom is the toxic saliva secreted by modified parotid salivary gland.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE :-

- Clear amber colored when fresh.

CLINICAL COMPOSITION :- Consist of :-

TOXINS -- Low molecular weight polypeptides and proteins , glycoproteins .

ENZYMES :-

- Proteinase
- Hydrolases
- Transaminase
- Hyaluronidase
- Cholinesterase
- Phospholipase
- ATPase
- Ribonuclease
- Deoxyribonuclease

TYPES OF VENOM MAY BE :-

- **NEUROTOXIC** –Cobra , krait
- **HEMATOXIC** –Viper

- MYOTOXIC –Sea snakes
- COBRA AND KRAIT VENOM—Blocks the nerve impulse from being carried to the muscle leading to progressive paralysis. Ultimately , there is paralysis of diaphragm and respiratory muscle leading to death .

CLINICAL FEATURES

1. NON POISONOUS SNAKE

- Fear and apprehension .
- Sweating
- Patient may be in state of shock with pulse hypotension , syncope , rapid and shallow breathing .

2. POISONOUS SNAKE :-

LOCAL FEATURES

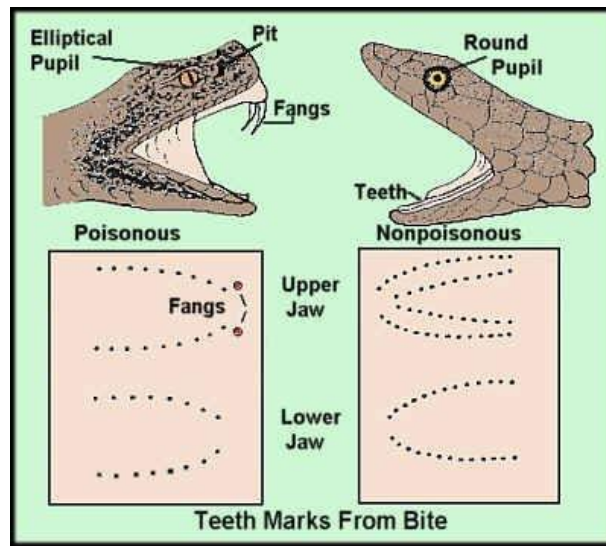
- Pain at bite side .
- Fangs marks
- Swelling and discoloration sometimes associated with few blisters .
- Serosanguinous discharges from bite site .
- In comparison with viper bite , local manifestation are milder in elapid bite .

SYSTEMIC FEATURE

Cobra and krait have neurotoxic venom . the venom blocks the nerve impulses from being carried to muscle leading to progressive paralysis . usually, the paralysis starts from the limbs towards the trunk and ultimately there is respiratory paralysis and death.

Patient may have following features :-

- **PREPARALYTIC STAGE** – Characterized by vomiting , headache , giddiness , weakness , and lethargy .
- **PARALYTIC STAGE** – Characterized by spreading paralytic features with ptosis , ophthalmoplegia , drowsiness, convulsions , respiratory failure , and death.



MANAGEMENT :--

NON POISONOUS SNAKE BITE :=

- Allay the anxiety and fear .
- Reassure the patients that all snakes are not poisonous

POISONOUS SNAKE BITE :=

- Reassurance .
- Limit systemic spread of venom by immobilizing the affected part.
- For viperid bites the bitten limb should be splinted if possible and kept at approximately heart level .

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