

Diadem Snake



Scientific Name:

Spalerosophis diadema atriceps

Range:

North Africa and the Near East to central Asia

Habitat:

Dry, extremely hot, rocky hillsides and plains

Average Size:

4-5.5 feet long

Lifespan in Captivity:

15-20 years

Diet:

Wild: Lizards, small mammals, snakes and ground birds

Zoo: Mice

Reproduction:

Incubation: 109 days

Clutch Size: 4-10 days

Appearance:

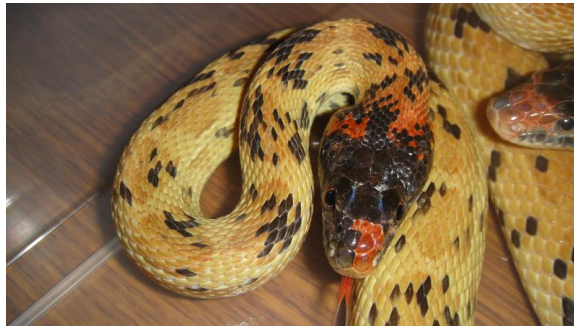
Adult are a lovely salmon-orange with black markings around the head and neck.

Predators:

Birds of prey, carnivorous mammals

Population Status:

Stable



About the Animal

Diadem snakes get their name from the pattern of colored scales on the head that look something like a crown or tiara - hence the name 'diadem'.

The Diadem Snake is part of the rat snake family and is very aggressive. It will hiss loudly when

disturbed and is very quick to bite. It tends to be nocturnal during the hottest part of the year. When the weather cools off, they will often switch to a more diurnal feeding pattern.

Because it lives in such a dry area of the world, the diadem snake is able to get most of the water it needs to survive from its food.

Mating and Reproduction

In order to reproduce, most diadem snakes require a 'cooling period' to simulate winter, if not true hibernation. After this cooling/hibernation, the male twines around the female, lining up the vents and mating occurs. Eggs are ovoid in appearance and leathery in texture.

Amazing Information

This species of snake is aggressive, but not venomous. When angry, they will puff up, hiss, bite and even chew on their attacker.



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