

VENOMOUS SNAKES OF FLORIDA

Pit Vipers



(Crotalidae): Hemotoxic - Venom causes severe pain, swelling, and bleeding.

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (Crotalus adamanteus)

- Found statewide in both dry and wet habitats.
- Largest venomous snake in the United States, with an average length of 5 feet and a maximum of more than 7 feet.
- Heavy-bodied with light to dark brown color, distinct diamond pattern on back, and rattle at end of tail.
- Considered to be the most dangerous snake due to its size.



Pigmy Rattlesnake (Sistrurus miliarius)

- Abundantly found statewide in wooded habitats, but occasionally found in marshes.
- Average length is 1 to 1-1/2 feet, and because of its small size, the "buzz" of the rattle might be difficult to hear.
- Gray in color, with dark gray or brown blotches and red highlight from head to tail.
- Due to its defensive behavior, this snake is a frequent offender.



Cottonmouth/Water Moccasin (Agkistrodon piscivorus)

- Found statewide near bodies of water.
- Average adult length: 3 to 4 feet.
- Colors vary from black to gray to brown with dark brown markings on its heavy body.
- Distinctive patterns appear on juveniles.
- Known for holding its ground, and when disturbed, will often give an "open mouth display."



Copperhead (Agkistrodon contortrix)

- Found in northern Florida in wooded areas and swampy highlands.
- Average adult length: 2 to 3 feet.
- Light brown with dark brown to red-brown saddle-shaped cross bands.
- Easily blends into surroundings due to its unique camouflage ability.



Canebrake Rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus)

- Found in northern Florida in dry wooded areas.
- Average length: 3 to 4 feet.
- Heavy-bodied tan snake with black cross bands and black tail with rattle.
- Southern subspecies of the Timber Rattlesnake.

Coral Snakes

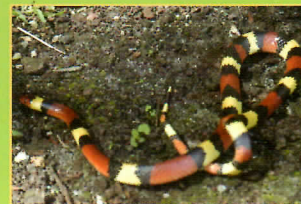


(Elapidae): Neurotoxic - Venom causes minor pain, swelling and discoloration. Stroke-like symptoms, slurred speech and difficulty breathing may occur hours later.

Coral Snake (Micrurus fulvius)

- Found statewide.
- Average length: 2 to 3 feet.
- Colorful red, yellow and black, thin-bodied snake.
- Often confused with the non-venomous Scarlet King Snake.

Can be identified by the rhyme "Red touches yellow, kills a fellow. Red touches black, venom lack."



non-venomous
Scarlet King Snake