

Snakes of Idaho

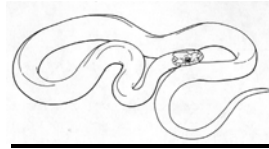
- Boidae
 - Rubber Boa
- Colubridae
 - Eastern Racer
 - Ringnecked Snake
 - Nightsnake
 - Striped Whipsnake
 - Gophersnake
 - Long-nosed Snake
 - Ground Snake
 - Terrestrial Garter Snake
 - Common Garter Snake
- Viperidae
 - Western Rattlesnake

Recent Taxonomic Changes

- Changes in scientific names:
 - *Pituophis melanoleucus* → *Pituophis catenifer*
- Changes in standardized common names:
 - Racer → Eastern Racer
 - Ringneck Snake → Ringnecked Snake
 - Night Snake → Nightsnake
 - Gopher Snake → Gophersnake
 - Longnose Snake → Long-nosed Snake
 - Western Ground Snake → Groundsnake
 - Western Terrestrial Garter Snake → Terrestrial Garter Snake

Snake Characteristics

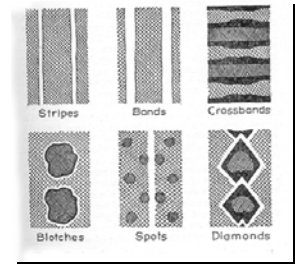
- Length
 - Body
 - Tail
 - Total
- Body shape
- Head
- Eyes
- Tail



Powell et al. 1998

Snake Characteristics

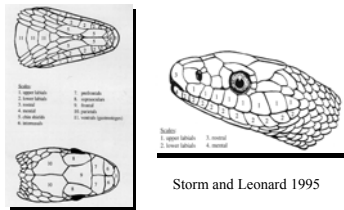
- Color pattern
- Ground color
- Ventral coloration



Schmidt and Davis 1941

Snake Characteristics

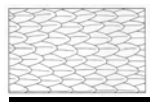
- Scalation
 - head
 - dorsal
 - ventral
- Skin texture



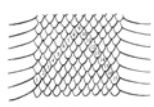
Storm and Leonard 1995



smooth



keeled






Rubber Boa (*Charina bottae*)

- Medium Size
 - Total length: 17 - 27 inches / 43 - 69 cm
- smooth scales
- short, blunt tail
- males with anal spurs
- light tan to dark brown dorsally
- cream colored ventrally
- small eyes with vertical pupils
- “rubbery” appearance and feel





Rubber Boa Distribution and Habitat




● Museum Records
 □ Predicted Distribution
 ■ Major Rivers and Lakes
 ▽ County Boundaries

Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)

- Medium size
Total length:
20-48 inches / 51 – 122 cm
- Uniform dorsal color of tan, olive, or grayish brown (adults)
- Blotched juveniles
- Large eyes with round pupils
- Smooth scales



Racer Distribution and Habitat




● Museum Records
 □ Predicted Distribution
 ■ Major Rivers and Lakes
 ▽ County Boundaries

Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)

- Small
 - Total length:
8 – 30 inches / 20 - 76 cm
- Ring around neck in western Idaho
- Gray dorsal color
- Orange ventral color
- Smooth scales




Ringneck Snake Distribution and Habitat

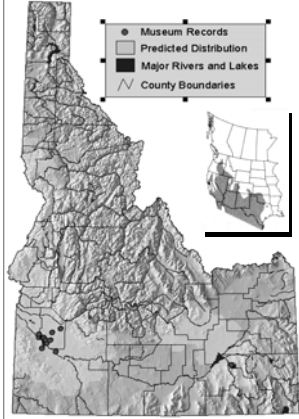
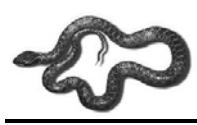
● Museum Records
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Night Snake (*Hypsiglena torquata*)

- Small Size
Total length:
12-18 inches / 30–46 cm
- light tan dorsal ground color with dark brown blotches
- dark collar like marking on neck
- eyes with vertical pupils
- smooth scales

Night Snake Distribution and Habitat

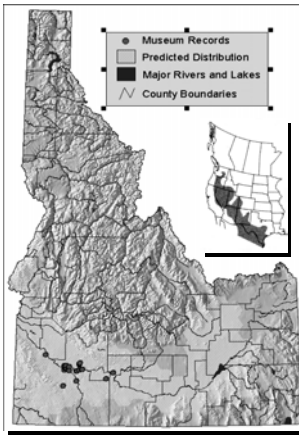


Striped Whipsnake (*Masticophis taeniatus*)

- Large size
Total length:
30–72 inches / 176–183 cm
- slim body
- long tail, pink ventrally
- black dorsal color, with light stripe on each side
- large eyes with round pupils
- smooth scales



Striped Whipsnake Distribution and Habitat

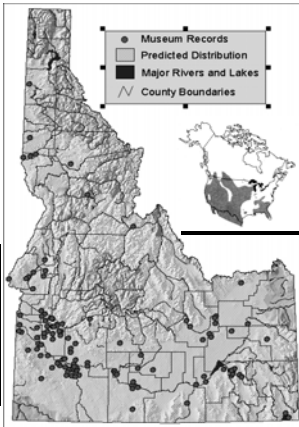


Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer*)

- Large size
Total length:
30 - 72 inches / 76 – 180 cm
- light tan ground color, with brown blotches dorsally
- facial mask
- tail with dark rings
- round pupils
- keeled scales



Gopher Snake Distribution and Habitat



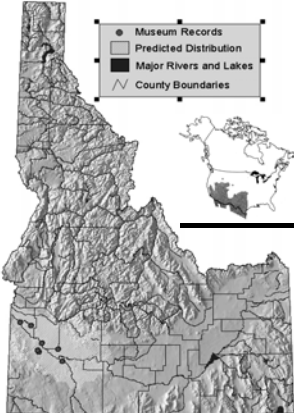


Longnose Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)

- Medium size
20 -40 inches / 51-102 cm
- Dorsal bands with speckled appearance
- Elongated snout, counter sunk jaw
- Enlarged rostral scale
- Smooth dorsal scales





Longnose Snake Distribution and Habitat




Ground Snake (*Sonora semiannulata*)

- Small size
Total length:
8 –12 inches / 20 – 30 cm
- Highly variable dorsal color and patterns
- Dappled appearance – dark spot at center of each dorsal scale
- Small, narrow head
- Smooth dorsal scales


Jon Beck

Ground Snake Distribution and Habitat


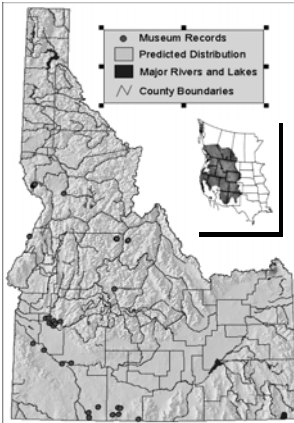




Terrestrial Garter Snake

- Medium size
Total length:
18 - 43 inches / 46 - 109 cm
- Variable ground color
- Usually with light vertebral and lateral stripes
- Dorsal spots invade stripe
- 8 upper labial scales
- Keeled dorsal scales






Terrestrial Garter Snake Distribution and Habitat

Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)

- Medium size
Total length:
18 - 36 inches / 46 - 91 cm
- Dark ground color
- Distinct vertebral and lateral stripes
- Often with red spots
- Usually 7 upper labial scales
- Keeled dorsal scales

Common Terrestrial

