

Green Cat Snake – Venomous – Not Dangerous



Green Cat-eyed Snake – *Boiga cyanea*

Length: Up to 186 cm

Description: This is a long, slender green snake (งูแมวเซา) with a vertically compressed body (shallow vertebral ridge). It is overall green, with a blue tint to it. The eyes are large with vertical pupils. The chin and throat are blue-white. The inside of the mouth is black. Young snakes of this species are brown / red hued with a green head.

This snake is nocturnal and arboreal, but can often be found on the ground as well.

Range: Thailand-wide. Found in evergreen forests, but also found in housing developments. The first one of this species that I found was on my porch at midnight, using my motorbike to reach higher on the windows for geckos. When I followed it, it climbed a small tree and rested about 2.5 meters high until I left the area. Found in a variety of forest types up to 2,100 meters.

Habitat: Bushes and trees. This snake is an excellent climber.

Active Time? Nocturnal.

Food: Geckos and other lizards appear to be its primary food source, but they will also eat small mammals, birds, eggs, other snakes, and frogs.

Defensive Behavior: I have not seen this snake strike often, they calm down with gentle handling very quickly. Usually they are very calm.

Venom Toxicity: Weak or none. Rear fanged, and the fangs are small and it is not easy for the snake to get a good grip to chew in the venom. That said, at least one instance of significant envenomation has been recorded. Don't attempt to hand-hold a snake that is biting.

Offspring: Nothing known about this area.

Notes: These are great snakes for first time snake hobbyists to handle for a short time in the wild. If they are striking initially, they quickly calm down when held for a short time. There is a very real danger of misidentification of a small non-venomous *B. cyanea* with one of the venomous green vipers.

Scientific classification: *Boiga cyanea*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Suborder: Serpentes

Family: Colubridae

Subfamily: Colubrinae

Genus: *Boiga*

Species: *B. cyanea*

Binomial name: *Boiga cyanea*

(Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)

Video – Green Cat Snake found in Southern Thailand

Video – Green Cat Snake strikes at the camera (not expecting it)

#greensnake #งูเขียว

Red Tailed Pipe Snake – Non Venomous – Not Dangerous



A Non-venomous Red-tailed Pip Snake (*Cylindrophis ruffus*) found in Southern Thailand during one of our herping field trips to look for snakes.



Red Tailed Pipe Snake – non venomous – small. The white – black pattern of half stripes is the belly. The top is completely black in adults and has some banding on the lateral sides in either white or some shade of red.

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The red-tailed pipe snake is a beautiful snake, though at first glance you might wonder if it is a snake at all! It has a very flat appearance for the tail region, and very black on the top. The head is so small you might think it's a large fat worm. The eyes are very small. This snake spends a lot of time in the dirt looking for grubs, maggots, and very small larvae and things.

***Cylindrophis ruffus ruffus* (Red Tailed Pipe Snake)**

Thais say: (ngoo kon kob)

Length: max about .9 meters (90 cm, 35.5 inches)

Range: All over Thailand on flat ground and at some elevation up to 1700 meters.

Notes: I had one of these red-tailed pipe snakes at my home to photograph and shoot video of for two days. They are beautiful snakes. Their top is black and has a radiance like a sunbeam snake – you know that rainbow appearance when the sunlight hits it? Beautiful. Then, on the underside the bands of black

and white don't line up – so it's very different. The bands will turn red and black as the juvenile red tailed pipe snake ages. The head is very small and the eyes – almost impossible to see.

I've found these pipe snakes in the fine mesh of roots growing into the water of streams, and also in leaf litter on mud bordering streams. Around my home in Krabi Town I have found dozens dead on the road in the morning time – especially after rains.

Habitat: The snake lives on the ground and in rat holes and termite mounds, under stumps or rocks and in other cool, damp places.

Active Time? The snake is mostly nocturnal and is active at night.

Food: Brahminy blind snakes, insect larvae, small frogs and worms.

Defensive Behavior: This pipe snake hides the head under loops of it's body and flips it's red tail end up in the air – flattening it – as if like a cobra. Thais call this the 2-head snake because it wants you to think it has two. In an hour of handling this snake, it made no move to bite at all. That doesn't mean it won't, but they are not all that inclined to bite. Their mouth is VERY small and they'd have to catch you just right to bite you.

Venom Toxicity: None that affects humans.

Offspring: This snake has 5-10 young, born live, about 20 cm long (about 8 inches).

Red Tailed Pipe Snake's Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Subphylum: Vertebrata

Class: Reptilia
Order: Squamata
Suborder: Serpentes
Family: Cyliodrophiidae
Genus: *Cylindrophis*
Species: *C. ruffus*

Binomial name

Cylindrophis ruffus

Classified by Laurenti in year 1768



Belly side.



The top of this snake is completely black and patternless. The body is relatively flat shaped, and can be made very flat when it chooses.

Red Tailed Pipe Snake video:

Here is Fred, one of our interns, showing a Red-tailed Pipe Snake he found on one of our field trips:

Ptyas Carinatus – Keeled Rat Snake



These are great snakes. They get big. This one is 2.75m. This is another one that hasn't calmed down since being caught. They are rat snakes, so that's what they prefer. Unfortunately we don't see many rats around this area so I couldn't catch one to feed it to him if I wanted to. If I find a pet store I'll buy a couple rats and see if he's hungry. Unfortunately these snakes die quickly after being caught – so it will probably become dinner for one of the big king cobras – if they'll eat it.

There are some color variations in these snakes. Here's a

Ptyas carinatus I caught that was much more green.