

Macleay's water snake

Enhydris polylepis

Description

Belonging to the family Colubridae, the Macleay's water snake is the only species of the genus *Enhydris* found in Northern Australia. The species is mildly venomous with rear fangs, and grows to about 90cm. The colour of the species varies from shades of brown, olive and grey, sometimes with stripes or speckles with a cream to yellow underbelly and glossy scales. As the name suggests the species is mainly aquatic and is generally nocturnal.

Distribution

The Macleay's water snake is found in the north of the Northern Territory and throughout the Cape York Peninsular in Queensland. It is found mostly in freshwater lagoons, swamps and creeks and can be found sheltering in vegetation near water. In the Northern Territory its range increases markedly during wet season flooding.

Regional Abundance

Darwin - Common, Katherine - Not Common, Alice Springs - Not found.

Diet and Reproduction

The Macleay's water snake's diet consists of small fish, tadpoles and frogs. Unlike many other snakes they bear live young producing up to 15 at a time.

MILDLY VENOMOUS



David Reed