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A Key To Snakes Of Minnesota

Milton D. Thompson

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The window is inserted into the ear of the rabbit under nembu-tal anesthesia using sterile technic.

The first vessels appear about the fifth day following the operation. At the end of the third week the window contains blood vessels consisting of arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules and veins.

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A KEY TO SNAKES OF MINNESOTA

MILTON D. THOMPSON

Minneapolis Public Library Museum

1. Tail ending in a rattle. Pupil of the eye vertical. Pit between the nostril and the eye. (See 2)
- 1a. Tail not ending in a rattle. Pupil of eye round. Pit not present. (See 3)
2. Crown of head between the eyes covered by a few large regular scales and no small ones. Generally grey color with several dark dorsal blotches. Size small.

Massasauga

Sistrurus c. catenatus

- 2a. Crown of head between the eyes covered by two large scales and many small irregular ones. Usually of a yellow background with black markings. The yellow may vary from yellow to black. Tail black.

Timber rattle snake

Crotalus h. horridus

3. Anal plate entire. (See 4)
- 3a. Anal plate divided. (See 9)
4. Scales keeled. (See 5)
- 4a. Scales smooth without keels. (See 8)

5. Snake bearing longitudinal stripes. (See 6)
- 5a. Snake spotted and without stripes. Three series of brownish black dorsal spots on yellow background, one series down the back and one on each side, except in young which are of a general grey color, mottled with dark brown, and not having a dark band over the nose.

Bull snake

Pituophis sayi

6. Side stripe in the third and fourth scale rows from the bottom.

Plain garter snake

Thamnophis r. radix

- 6a. Side stripes on second and third scale rows. (See 7)
7. Inter-scale spaces of the anterior third of the snake showing red.
Red-sided garter snake
T. sirtalis parietalis
- 7a. No red on sides
Common garter snake
T. s. sirtalis
8. Size small of uniform color without pattern. Usually bright green. Rarely tan.
Smooth green snake
Entechinus vernalis
- 8a. Snake spotted, many dark red saddles with black borders along the back.
Milk snake
Lampropeltis triangulum
9. Scales smooth (See 10)
- 9a. Scales keeled (See 11)
- 10.* Dark above. Size small. Brick red beneath, bright orange or red ring around neck.
Ring-necked snake
Diadophis punctatus arnyl
- 10a. Color usually black above. Color always uniform except in young, which are grey with mottled irregular dark brown or black blotches but no band across the nose just in front of the eyes. Light color beneath shows bluish tinge on the region where the dorsal and ventral scales meet. Fifteen scale rows at posterior end of body.
Blue Racer
Coluber constrictor flaviventris
11. Tip of nose shovel-like. Body stout. (See 12)
- 11a. Tip of nose not shovel-like. (See 13)
12. Tip of nose sharply upturned. Black and white crossword puzzle-like design on underside of body with dorsal side generally grey with irregular dark blotches.
Western hognose snake
Heterodon nasicus
- 12a. Tip of nose not so sharply upturned. No black beneath except in young. The dorsal side is of a uniform olive color with an inverted coma-like marking behind each eye.
Common hognose snake
Heterodon contortrix

* This snake has not been found in Minnesota to date, but has been included in this key because of its known distribution in adjoining states. It is felt that it is undoubtedly present in the southern part of the State.

13. Body relatively stout; colored usually dark grey to dark brown with many regular darker bands which are widest at the mid-dorsal line.

Banded water snake
Natrix s. sipedon

- 13a. Body slender, without bands. (See 14)

14. Spotted light brown with chocolate brown blotches, having straight or convex anterior and posterior borders along the middle of the back, except in young which are grey mottled with irregular dark brown or black blotches, and having a conspicuous dark halter-like band across the nose just in front of the eyes. Scale rows 25 to 27 at mid-body. Scale keels often almost unobservable.

Fox snake
Elaphe vulpina

- 14a. No conspicuous dorsal blotches. Size small. (See 15)

15. Scale rows 15. Usually 8 to 10 inches long. Underside bright red.

Red bellied snake
Storeria occipito maculata

- 15a. Scale rows usually 17. Light brown or tan with indistinct mid-dorsal stripe bordered by tiny black dots. Pale flesh color beneath.

Dekay's snake
Storeria d. dekayi

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. This key was made from information obtained from Mrs. Wiley's unpublished Key to Reptiles of Minnesota, Pope's Key to Snakes of the United States, and information obtained from Mr. Breckenridge of the University of Minnesota.

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CYANOGENESIS

C. F. ROGERS
Ohio State University

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STUDIES ON NEMATODE LIFE CYCLES IN MINNESOTA RODENTS

PAUL R. HIGHBY
University of Minnesota