

SHIELD-SNOUDED BROWN SNAKE

HABITAT

The Shield-snouted Brown Snake lives under any available natural or manmade groundcover such as fallen wood, rock slabs, ridged iron sheets, and disused animal burrows and deep soil cracks.^[1] They are native to South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria.^[2]

DIET

Their keen eyesight helps them to quickly detect any movement for potential vertebrate prey, including lizards, other snakes, young birds, and small mammals like rodents. When they strike, they hang on to their prey and will often constrict their prey to secure it until the venom takes effect.^[3]

REPRODUCTION

They breed from spring to summer in Southern Australia. Breeding is less restricted and takes place during suitable conditions in Central and Northern Australia. They lay an average of 12 eggs, producing up to 38 eggs. During good seasons, they may lay a second clutch 40 to 60 days after the first.^[4]

THREATS

Their main threats are predators such as Mulga snakes and various birds of prey.^[5]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

They have a secure status and are fairly common so conservation management is not relevant at this stage.^[6]



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DESCRIPTION

They are up to 1.5m long,^[7] with narrow heads, chisel-shaped snouts, large eyes with dark irises and a reddish-orange ring around their pupils.^[8] Their body colours vary from red-brown, dull brown to black, with white-yellow bellies, black heads and necks.^[9]

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pseudonaja aspidorhyncha^[10]

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern^[11]

CLASS

Reptiles^[12]

LIFESPAN

5 to 10 years^[13]

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown^[14]

FUN FACT

In any clutch, there are almost always more males than females regardless of temperature.^[15]

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- ^[1] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', *Australian Museum* (25 Nov. 2020), Habitat, <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/reptiles/western-brown-snakes/>, accessed 28 Aug. 2024.
- ^[2] Atlas of Living Australia, 'Pseudonaja aspidorhyncha : Strap-Snouted Brown Snake', *Atlas of Living Australia* (2024), Summary, <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/32777523-ef8e-4669-8a80-5fe1d43d616b>, accessed 29 Aug. 2024.
- ^[3] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Feeding and diet.
- ^[4] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Breeding behaviours.
- ^[5] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Predators.
- ^[6] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Conservation status.
- ^[7] Atlas of Living Australia, 'Pseudonaja aspidorhyncha : Strap-Snouted Brown Snake', Description.
- ^[8] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Identification.
- ^[9] Atlas of Living Australia, 'Pseudonaja aspidorhyncha : Strap-Snouted Brown Snake', Description.
- ^[10] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Alternative name/s.
- ^[11] iNaturalist, 'Shield-snouted Brown Snake', *iNaturalist* (20 Aug. 2021), Status, <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/111067-Pseudonaja-aspidorhyncha>, accessed 29 Aug. 2024.
- ^[12] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Class.
- ^[13] Picture Nature, 'Shield-snouted brown snake', *Picture Animal* (n.d.), Lifespan, https://pictureanimal.com/wiki/Pseudonaja_aspidorhyncha.html, accessed 29 Aug. 2024.
- ^[14] Animal Information, 'Shield-snouted Brown Snake', *Animal Information* (6 May 2024), Population, https://pictureanimal.com/wiki/Pseudonaja_aspidorhyncha.html, accessed 29 Aug. 2024.
- ^[15] Australian Museum, 'Western Brown Snakes', Breeding behaviours.