

# Classes of Venomous Reptiles for NC Dangerous Animal Regulations

On November 15, 2006 the Policy, Regulation and Trade Committee of NCPARC approved the following list and classification as it pertains to the licensing of venomous reptiles. These recommendations include three classes of license, and within each of the classes, a list of the venomous snake genera, and the one venomous lizard genera, that fall under that class. In parentheses after each genera or family is the common name of the group (if one exists) and the approximate number of species within that group (we acknowledge that this changes and that often different people/studies will have differing opinions on species numbers). The taxonomy we used is the latest generally accepted venomous snake taxonomy (see the references below). Taxonomic changes in the future will likely alter the present taxonomy and necessitate revisions to this list.

## Class A (Advanced Level)

### Included Taxa:

#### **Hydrophidae:** (True Sea Snakes):

*Acalptyophis* (1 species); *Aipysurus* (7 species); *Astrotia* (1 species); *Disteira* (3 species); *Emydocephalus* (2 species); *Enhydrina* (1 species); *Ephalophis* (1 species); *Hydrelaps* (1 species); *Hydrophis* (22 species); *Kerilia* (1 species); *Lapemis* (4 species); *Parahydrophis* (1 species); *Pelamis* (1 species); *Thalassophis* (1 species).

#### **Laticaudidae:**

*Laticauda* (Sea Kraits - 4 species).

#### **Australasian Elapid Snakes:**

*Acanthophis* (Death Adders – 4 species); *Austrelaps* (Australian Copperheads - 3 species); *Aspidomorphus* (New Guinea Crown Snakes or Collard Adders – 3 species); *Cacophis* (Crown Snakes – 3 species); *Demansia* (Whip Snakes – 6 species); *Denisonia* Ornamental Snakes – 2 species); *Drysdalia* (Crown Snakes – 4 species); *Echiopsis* (Bardick's Snakes – 2 species); *Elapognathus*, (Little Brown Snake – 1 species); *Furina* (Naped Snakes– 5 species); *Hemiaspis* (Swamp Snakes – 2 species); *Hoplocephalus* (Pale-Headed or Broad-Headed Snakes - 3 species); *Loveridgelaps* (Orange Banded snake – 1 species); *Micropechis* (New Guinea Small-eyed Snake – 1 species); *Notechis* (Tiger Snakes – 2 species); *Oxyuranus* (taipan – 2 species); *Parademansia* (Small-scaled Brown Snake – 1 species); *Parapistocalamus* (Hediger's Snake – 1 species); *Pseudechis* (Australian Black Snakes – 5 species); *Pseudonaja* (Australian Brown Snakes – 9 species); *Rhinoplocephalus* (Small-eyed Snakes – 3 species); *Simoselaps* (Half-girdled Snakes – 12 species); *Suta* (Curl or Black-headed Snakes – 11 species); *Toxicocalamus* (New Guinea Forest Snakes - 9 species), *Tropidechis* (Rough-scaled Snake – 1 species); *Vermicella* (Bandy-bandy snakes – 2 species).

### **Elapidae:**

*Aspidelaps* (Shieldnosed Cobras - 2 species); *Boulengeria* (African Water Cobra's - 2 species); *Bungarus* (Kraits - 12 species); *Dendroaspis* (Mambas - 4 species); *Hemachatus* (Ringhals Cobra – 1 species); *Naja* (Cobra's - 19-22 species); *Ophiophagus* (King Cobra – 1 species); *Pseudohaje* (Tree/Forest Cobras – 2 species); *Walternessia* (Desert Cobra – 1 species).

### **Venomous Colubrids:**

**Atracaspidae:** *Atractaspis* (Mole Vipers or Stiletto Snakes - 18 species)

**Colubridae:** *Dispholidus* (Boomslang's - 1 species); *Thelotornis* (African Twig Snake – 4 species)

## **Class B (Intermediate Level)**

### **Included Taxa:**

#### **Elapidae:**

*Calliophis* (Oriental Coral Snakes - 11 species); *Elapsoidea* (African Garter Snake – 9-11 species); *Hemibungarus* (Oriental Coral Snakes - 3 species); *Leptomicrurus* – Slender Coral Snakes – 3 species); *Maticora* (Malayan Coral Snakes – 2 or 3 species); *Micruroides* (Arizona Coral Snake – 1 species); *Micrurus* (Coral Snakes – 62+ species).

#### **Viperidae:**

*Adenprinos* (Barbour's Short-headed Viper - 1 species); Asian *Agkistrodon* Species (7 species); Neotropical *Agkistrodon* – the cantil (1 species); *Atropoides* (Jumping Vipers – 5 species); *Azemiops* (Fea's Viper – 1 species); *Bitis* (African Vipers - 14 species); *Bothrops* (Forest Vipers - 7 species); *Bothrops* (Lancehead Pit Vipers - Fer-de-lances - 30 + species); *Calloselasma* (Malayan Pit Viper – 1 species); *Causus* (Night Adders – 6 species); *Cerastes* (Horned Vipers - 3 species); *Crotalus* (Rattlesnakes - 26 + species); *Daboia* (Russell's and Palestine Vipers – 6 species); *Deinagkistrodon* (100 pacer – 1 species); *Echis* (Saw-scaled Vipers – 10 species); *Eristicophis* (Macmahon's Viper – 1 species); *Hypnale* (Hump-nosed Pitvipers – 3 species); *Lachesis* (Bushmasters – 2 species); *Macrovipera* (no common name proposed – 4 species); *Montatheris* (Kenya Mountain Viper – 1 species); *Proatheris* (Swamp Adder – 1 species); *Ophryacus* (no common name proposed – 2 species); *Ovophis* (Asian Mountain Vipers – 3 species); *Porthidium* (Hognosed Pitvipers – 9 species); *Pseudocerstes* (Persian Horned Viper - 1 species); *Vipera* (True Vipers – 27 + species).

#### **Rear-fanged Colubrids:**

*Rhabdophis* (Asian Garter Snakes – 18 species).

## **Class C (Beginner Level)**

### **Included Taxa:**

#### **Lizards:**

*Heloderma* (Bead Lizard and Gila Monsters – 2 species)

#### **Viperidae:**

*Agkistrodon* (Species native to the United States - 2 species); *Atheris* (African Bush Vipers - 8 species); *Bothriechis* (Neotropical Tree Pitvipers - 7 species); *Sistrurus* (Pigmy and Massasauga Rattlesnakes – 3 species – except *Sistrurus miliarius miliarius* - protected); *Trimeresurus* (Asian Tree Pitvipers - 41 species); *Tropidolaemus* (Temple Vipers – 2 species).

#### **Rear-fanged Colubrids:**

*Boiga* (Cat-eyed Snakes - 33 species).

### **Useful References :**

Altamari, W. 1998. Venomous Snakes: A safety guide for reptile keepers. Society for the Study of Amphibians and reptiles, Herpetological Circular No. 26, 24 pp.

Campbell, J.A. and E.D. Brodie Jr. (Eds). 1992. Biology of Pitvipers. Selva Publishing, Tyler Texas. 467 pp.

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Cogger, H.G. 1975. Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Sydney. 584 pp. (more recent editions are available).

Cogger, H.G., E E. Cameron, and H. M. Cogger. 1983. Zoological Catalogue of Australia (Vol. 1): Amphibia and Reptilia. Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Australia. Canberra. 313 pp.

Gloyd, H.K. and R. Conant. 1990. Snakes of the Agkistrodon Complex: A monographic review. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Contributions to Herpetology No. 6. 614 pp.

- Greene, H.W. 1997. Appreciating rattlesnakes. Forward to 1997 printing, In Klauber, L.M. 1972. Rattlesnakes: Their habits, life histories, and influence on mankind. 2 Vols. Reprint of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. University of California press, Berkeley.
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- Minton, S.A., Jr., H.G. Dowling, and F.E. Russell. 1966. Poisonous Snakes of the World. 203 pp. + plates.
- O'Shea, M. 1996. A guide to the snakes of Papua New Guinea. Independent Publishing, Ptc Ltd. Singapore. 239 pp.
- Shine, R. 1991. Australian Snakes: A natural history. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, N.Y. 223 pp.

**Other useful references on-line:**

<http://www.toxinology.com/> WCH Clinical Toxinology Resources

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpentes> Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

<http://sbsweb.bangor.ac.uk/%7Ebss166/Publications.htm> Publications of Wolfgang Wuster. See publications on cobras.

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