

**Materia Medica  
Clinical Manifestations  
Affinities  
Biological Profiles  
and  
Characteristics  
of**

# REPTILES

**FRANS VERMEULEN**



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#### *Shared Characteristics*

History. Reproduction. Temperature regulation. Surviving on very little. Digestive tract. Brain & sense organs. Circulatory system. Respiration. Urinary tract. Skeleton. Skin.

#### *Those Crawly Things*

Bans & fans. The onnoxious duty to denote blame. Nature's regrettable moments of creation. Fear, fascination & freaks. Immortality lost. Reptiles as sex symbols.

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Diversity of crocodylians. Distribution & habitat. Physical features. Digestive tract & metabolism. Lactic acidosis. Heart like mammals. Lungs like birds. Death role to subdue & dismember prey. Downward movement. Senses. Territorial tiffs. Social behaviour. Courting & mating. Maternal care. Anti-bacterial properties – Putting the bite on germs. Differences between crocodiles & alligators. Differences in temper & activity.

#### *Crocodylian Connotations*

Amazingly stealthy. Amphibious ambiguity. Brutal force. Burdened with malice. Crocodylian character. Devil's mafia. Devouring. Distinguishing between right & wrong. Evil outsiders. Fear of emasculation. Growing largest from the smallest beginning. Hell's entrance. Hideous blot. Inverted aggression & crippled sentiment. Quick to learn & adapt. Sluggish pretense of humility. Tainted with sin. Tears of a crocodile. Top of the chain. Typical bully. Up to our rears in

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Summary of proving.

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Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

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Systematics. Biological profile. Worse from cold. Guarding & responding. Materia Medica [-].

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#### *Tyrannosaurus rex – T-rex*

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#### *Lizards from Head to Tail*

Diversity of lizards. Scales & skin. Shedding & sloughing. Shape & size. Tongue 'n teeth. Tail. Limbs & locomotion. Anoxia. Lizards loved or loathed.

### *Basic Behaviour Patterns*

Behaviour patterns common to both lizards & mammals. Daily routines. Lizard's dilemma – to be or not to be noticed. Showing one's colours. Colour as communication. Eye-catching & jaw-jawing messages. Poseurs & polygamists. Surrendering the behind. No families. Benefits & costs of social rank. Hostility & dear enemies. Cooperation. Cooperation, aggression or deception. Lizards & music.

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#### *Anguis fragilis – Slow-worm*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Slugging slugs. Meet the slow-worm. Materia medica [+].

#### *Basiliscus basiliscus – Common basilisk*

Systematics. Biological profile. Crossing the water. Materia Medica [-].

#### *Basiliscus vittatus – Brown basilisk*

Systematics. Biological profile. Stressed into submission. Materia Medica [-].

#### *Chamaeleo chamaeleon – Common chameleon*

Systematics. Biological profile. Slow to flee. Quick to anger. Prone to quarrel. Mating. The outcome of proceeding slowly. Seven distinctive attributes. Blending in vs. standing out. Social chameleons. Chameleons in the making. Materia Medica [-].

#### *Chamaeleo dilepis – Flap-necked chameleon*

Systematics. Biological profile. Bloating allows floating. Aggressive displays. Materia Medica [++].

#### *Chamaeleo zeylanicus – Indian chameleon*

Systematics. Biological profile. Post-mating male avoidance behaviour. Materia Medica [-].

#### *Chlamydosaurus kingii – Frill-necked lizard*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Jolly & comical. Putting on frills. Materia Medica [-].

#### *Elgaria coerulea – Northern alligator lizard*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Elgaria kingii* – Madrean alligator lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Furcifer oustaleti* – Giant Madagascar chameleon

Systematics. Biological profile. Thoroughly solitary. Materia Medica [+].

*Heloderma* – *horridum* & *suspectum*

Biological profile. Monster paradox, like strolling snakes. Economic with energy. Gripped by pain. Chemistry of venom. Dogged persistence.

*Heloderma horridum* – Mexican beaded lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Venom. Scuffling for love. Materia Medica [+].  
Envenomation by the Mexican beaded lizard: A case report.

*Heloderma suspectum* – Gila monster

Systematics. Biological profile. Slowly forwards, retreating backwards. Diet. Behaviour & temperament. Pre-menstrual bickering. Persistent determination. Difference with *Heloderma horridum*. Effects of bite. Personal accounts of bites. Diabetes type 2 drug. Materia Medica [+++]. Clinical observations & confirmations. Themes of proving. Case.

*Hemidactylus flaviviridis* – Yellow-bellied gecko

Systematics. Biological profile. Darting forward without a warning shadow. House geckos. Geckos in Indian folklore. Leaving its taint wherever it passes. Materia Medica [-].

*Iguana iguana* – Green iguana

Systematics. Biological profile. Colour alteration. Behaviour & temperament. Amusing, brash, aggressive. Circling to a clash. Dominators & the dominated. Third eye. Guts to grow. The Iguana's fundamental nature. Materia Medica [-].

*Lacerta agilis* – Sand lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+].

*Lacerta muralis* – Common wall lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Testosterone. Materia Medica [-].

*Lacerta vivipara* – Viviparous lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Quicksilver quick. Desperate haste. Materia Medica [-].

*Pogona vitticeps* – Central bearded lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Bobbing & waving. Materia Medica [-].

*Sceloporus occidentalis* – Western fence lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Mating & breeding. Lyme disease. Materia Medica [-].

*Varanus komodoensis* – Komodo dragon

Systematics. Biological profile. Family Varanidae. Varanid behaviour. Medicinal & other uses of monitor lizards. Almost alone on an island. Venom rather than bacteria. A full meal. Meeting at the dinner table. Materia Medica [-].

### *Biological Profile*

Solitary, non-social & non-territorial. Sense organs. Thermoregulation through colour. Parental care. Limbless locomotion. Snakes in motion. The silent might of motionlessness. Life persistence. Defensive behaviour. Feigning death. More ballet than battle. Winners take it all, losers take the fall.

### *From False Notion to Devotion*

#### 1. *Snake Legends*

Snakes chase people. Snakes retaliate, take revenge & are unrelenting. Snakes don't tolerate disrespect. Snakes more shrewd & crafty than any other wild animal. Snakes charm, fascinate, hypnotise prey with their unblinking eyes. Mother snakes swallow their young when confronted with danger. Miscellaneous beliefs.

#### 2. *Helpless to Break the Spell*

#### 3. *Fang Club Members Taking On The Serpent*

Taking on the snake nature. Love of desolate places. Outcast; don't tread on me. Stoic & fearless. Unappreciated & misunderstood. Thrill & attention seeking. Rush to breakthroughs. Defiant, argumentative, aggressive. Snakes in the grass, cunning & vindictive. Supernatural compassion & care. The nature of snakes.

#### 4. *Serpent Handling*

Speaking with new tongues. Reptile rapture – dancing with snakes following signs.

#### 5. *Serpent Worship*

#### *Snake Slang – Imagery & Metaphors*

Mad as an adder. Mean as a rattler. Quick as a cobra. Slippery as a snake. Speaking with a forked tongue – viper's tongue.

#### *Venomous Phenomena*

Snake venoms general.

#### *Neurotoxins – Paresis & Paralysis*

Signs & symptoms of neurotoxic snakebites. Sequelae. Sleeping into aggravation. Broken neck. Losing control over everything – locked in, buried alive. Locked in or locked out.

#### *Haemotoxins – Cardiovascular Assault & Clotting Crisis*

Signs & symptoms. Stroke.

#### *Cytotoxins – Swelling & Tissue Death*

#### *Myotoxins – Muscle Pain & Muscle Destruction*

Signs & symptoms. Rhabdomyolysis.

#### *Cardiotoxins – Heart & Circulation*

*For Goodness Snakes – Venoms as Medicines*

Polio & other neurological syndromes. MS & ALS. Breast cancer. Vascular disease. Blood pressure. Blood clotting. Diuresis. Topical analgesic in rheumatic & neuralgic pain. Pain management. Straightening out wrinkles. Superior to snake oil: lethal snake delight.

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*Snake Themes according to Massimo Mangialavori*

*Snake Themes according to Rajan Sankaran*

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*Antaresia perthensis – Pygmy python*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Boa constrictor – Boa constrictor*

Systematics. Biological profile. Anecdotal superlatives. Materia Medica [++].  
Guiding symptoms.

*Corallus hortulanus – Amazon tree boa*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Eunectes murinus – Green anaconda*

Systematics. Biological profile. Breeding balls. Polyandry – many males. Materia Medica [-].

*Eunectes notaeus – Yellow anaconda*

Systematics. Biological profile. Mating & cannibalism. Uses. Anaconda as a pet. Materia Medica [-].

*Morelia spilota variegata – Carpet python*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [-].

*Morelia viridis – Green tree python*

Systematics. Biological profile. Colour changes & camouflage. Materia Medica [-].

*Python molurus – Indian python*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [-].

*Python regius* – *Ball python*

Systematics. Biological profile. Sacred python. The God to whom all things are known. Materia Medica [++]. Interdependence.

*Python reticulatus* – *Reticulated python*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Having a familiar spirit. The Pythoness. Materia Medica [++]. Symptoms from a cured case.

## **Family Colubridae – Colubrids 230**

### *Biological Profile*

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*Cyclagras gigas* – *False water cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

*Dispholidus typus* – *Boomslang*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Challenging to capture. Materia Medica [+]. Close resemblance to Phosphorus symptoms. Faintness, giddiness & mental torpor in hot weather. Bleeding to death.

*Drymarchon corais* – *Yellowtail cribo*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Drymarchon couperi* – *Eastern indigo snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Elaphe guttata* – *Corn snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Star gazing. Materia Medica [+].

*Elaphe longissima* – *Aesculapian snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Lampropeltis calligaster calligaster* – *Prairie kingsnake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata* – *Mole kingsnake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Lampropeltis getula californiae* – *California kingsnake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Fearless & self-reliant. Bold & courageous. Refusing to budge. Duels to the death. Venting its spleen. Materia Medica [-].

*Lampropeltis triangulum* – *Milk snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [-].

*Natrix natrix* – *Grass snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

*Pantherophis obsoletus* – *Texas ratsnake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].



*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* – Eastern garter snake  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

*Vipera acustica carinata* = *Chironius carinatus* – Amazonian whipsnake  
Identity uncertain. Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

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*Neurotoxins – Paresis & Paralysis*

*Hypertension & Autonomic Dysfunction*

*Locked-In Syndrome – Inability to Communicate*

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*Signs & Symptoms of Neurotoxic Snakebites*

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### *Bungarus caeruleus* – Common krait

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+]. Abdominal colic, amnesia & autonomic disturbances. Incidence of symptoms & signs on admission in hospital for snakebite. Recovery of functions in severely envenomed patients. Abdominal pain. Neurological symptoms preceded by abdominal pain. Bitten in the night. Hypokalemia & metabolic acidosis.

### *Bungarus candidus* – Blue krait

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Neurological & cardiovascular effects. Ptosis, myalgia, dysphagia & muscle Weakness. Hyponatremia. Hyponatremia & the brain. Chronic effects.

### *Bungarus fasciatus* – Banded krait

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [++]. Lack of control. Themes of proving. Guiding symptoms. Clinical manifestations. Bitten in a tree.

### *Bungarus multicinctus* – Many-banded krait

Systematics. Biological profile. Deceptively slow & surprisingly quick. Materia Medica [+]. Ptosis, paralysis & retention. The first symptoms developed after envenomation. Resembling Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Waking at 4 a.m. with tingling & numbness of lower limbs. General overview.

### *Dendroaspis angusticeps* – Eastern green mamba

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Polycystic kidney disease. Materia Medica [++]. Remedy overview. Clinical manifestations.

### *Dendroaspis polylepis* – Black mamba

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Beauty & menace greatly dreaded. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. Sudden death.

Tightness, numbness & twitching. Losing control over everything – black mamba bite. Taken for dead. Falling in & out of consciousness – black mamba bite.

*Dendroaspis viridis* – *Western green mamba*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Stricken by the light. Materia Medica [-].

*Elaps corallinus* – *Brazilian coral snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Coral snakes. Relationship with rain. Materia Medica [+++]. Clinical manifestations. Case 1. Case 2.

*Hemachatus haemachatus* – *Rinkhals*

Systematics. Biological profile. Intimidating & pretending. Body temperature regulation. Materia Medica [++]. Extremities. Clinical manifestations. Effects of bite – pain on any change of weather.

*Maticora bivirgata* – *Blue Malayan coral snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Stuck in contraction. Materia Medica [-].

*Micrurus lemniscatus* – *South American coral snake*

Systematics. Biological profile. Food frenzy. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations of coral snake bite. Pain control.

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Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

*Naja annulifera* – *Snouted cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

*Naja haje* – *Egyptian cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations.

*Naja kaouthia* – *Monocled cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. A man respected & feared. Materia Medica [+]. Case report of 3 bites. Case report of 69 bites. Overview effects of bite.

*Naja melanoleuca* – *Forest cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. An axe to split. Venom & clinical manifestations. Materia Medica [+].

*Naja mossambica* – *Mozambique spitting cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Eyes. Clinical manifestations.

*Naja nigricollis* – *Black-necked spitting cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. Spitting straight in the eye. Materia Medica [+].

*Naja nivea* – *Cape cobra*

Systematics. Biological profile. A day in the live of the Cape cobra. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Naja pallida* – Red spitting cobra

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations.

*Naja tripudians* – Indian cobra

Systematics. Biological profile. The cobra's revenge. Materia Medica [+++]. Wrong snake. Case. Clinical manifestations. Drooping, dragging, dropping dead. Bitten in the nose. Typical course of cobra envenomation. Symptoms & signs.

*Notechis scutatus occidentalis* – Western tiger snake

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. General overview.

*Notechis scutatus scutatus*– Eastern tiger snake

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Ophiophagus hannah* – King cobra

Systematics. Biological profile. No serpent more clever & curious. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. King-size effects. Locked-in syndrome.

*Oxyuranus microlepidotus* – Inland taipan

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Little one can do – heart stopping twice.

*Oxyuranus scutellatus* – Coastal taipan

Systematics. Biological profile. Lightning fast. Bitten before realizing. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [++]. Central idea of remedy. Clinical manifestations. Nearly always fatal. Survival & recovery. Overview typical signs & symptoms.

*Pseudonaja textilis* – Eastern brown snake

Systematics. Biological profile. Keeping a safe distance. Materia Medica [+]. Restrained reign. Clinical manifestations. A fatal case.

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Living fast. Secretiveness to avoid retaliation.

*Sea Snake Envenomation*

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*Hydrophis cyanocinctus* – Annulated sea snake

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Upper & lower body. Case 1. Case 2. Case 3.

*Laticauda colubrina* – Banded sea snake

Systematics. Biological profile. Head or tail. Materia Medica [+].

*Pelamis platurus* – Yellow bellied sea snake

Systematics. Biological profile. Stealthy approach & motionless waiting. Knotting behaviour. Materia Medica [+].

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*Clinical Features of North American Pit Viper Envenomation*

*Clinical Features of Bothrops Envenomation*

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*Acrochordon chochoe* = *Lachesis acrochorda* – *Chocoan bushmaster*

*Ancistrodon piscivorus* – *Cottonmouth*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Social in the wild – wildly unsocial in captivity. Calling the bluff. Venom & clinical manifestations. Materia Medica [++].

*Bothriechis schlegelii* – *Eyelash pit viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Courtship behaviour. Materia Medica [+].

*Bothrocophias colombianus* – *Toad-headed pit viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Toad-headed pit viper bile as antivenom treatment. Materia Medica [+]. Identity. Clinical manifestations.

*Bothrops alternatus* – *Crossed pit viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

*Bothrops asper* – *Asper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+]. Identity. Clinical manifestations. A chill of death. Surviving a viper bite.

*Bothrops atrox* – *Common lancehead*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. Case.

*Bothrops caribbaeus* – *St. Lucia pit viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Systemic thrombotic complications. Materia Medica [+]. Four cases of bites.

*Bothrops colombiensis* = *Bothrops atrox*

*Bothrops insularis* – *Golden lancehead*

Systematics. Biological profile. Snake island. Materia Medica [-].

*Bothrops jararaca* – *Jararaca*

Systematics. Biological profile. Less inclined to compete. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Bothrops jararacussu* – Jararacussu

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Guiding symptoms. Clinical manifestations.

*Bothrops lanceolatus* – Fer-de-lance

Systematics. Biological profile. Always on the alert. Fear the lance. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. Case.

*Bothrops neuwiedi urutu* – Neuwied's lancehead

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+].

*Cenchrus contortrix* – Copperhead

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Social snake. Mating. Combat dances. Clinical manifestations. A snake coiled up in the stomach. Materia Medica [+++]. Case 1. Case 2.

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Biological profile. Frequency of occurrence of symptoms in rattlesnake bite. Account by Mr. J. Breintal of what he felt after being bitten by a rattlesnake. An experiment going horribly wrong.

*Crotalus adamanteus* – Eastern diamondback rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament – A most courageous gentleman. Materia Medica [+]. Laming rattlers. Twitching spasmodically. A protracted convalescence.

*Crotalus atrox* – Western diamondback rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Experimental use of rattlesnake venom to treat epilepsy. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations. Symptoms. Nearly dead.

*Crotalus cascavella* – South American rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Venom & clinical manifestations. Bitten in the finger. An array of complications. Principal constituents of venom & their effects. Effects in children. Materia Medica [+++]. Mure's female patient. Case.

*Crotalus cerastes cerastes* – Mojave Desert rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Avoiding full-body contact. Reproduction. Keeping warm. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Crotalus enyo* – Baja California rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Venom & clinical manifestations. Materia Medica [-].

*Crotalus horridus* – Timber rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Aggregating & assembling. Social life. Living in captivity. Loss of colour vision except for yellow. I should be dead. Replacing the mind on her native throne. Materia Medica [+++]. Dull & stupid.

*Crotalus lepidus* – Rock rattlesnake

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations. Searing pain.

- Crotalus mitchellii* – *Speckled rattlesnake*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Crotalus molossus* – *Black-tailed rattlesnake*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Crotalus polystictus* – *Mexican lanceheaded rattlesnake*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Postpartum cannibalism. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Crotalus viridis viridis* – *Prairie rattlesnake*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Social life. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations. Aphasia & alesia.
- Deinagkistrodon acutus* – *Sharp-nosed pit viper*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Creation myth. Sign of distinction. Food & medicine. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Lachesis acrochorda* – *Chocoan bushmaster*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Identity. Confusion of identity. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations. Lachesis syndrome. Case.
- Lachesis muta* – *Bushmaster*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Heat strike. Maternal protection. Venom & clinical manifestations – one who strikes repeatedly. Bitten. Quickly reduced to a state of exhaustion & helplessness. Materia Medica [+++]. Frightened by a snake.
- Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* – *Eastern massasauga*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [-].
- Sistrurus miliarius barbouri* – *Dusky pygmy rattlesnake*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Guarding the female. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [-].
- Trimeresurus flavoviridis* – *Habu*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Snake in a bottle. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus* – *Brown spotted pit viper*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Trimeresurus puniceus* – *Flat-nosed pit viper*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].
- Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus* – *Mangrove pit viper*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].
- Trimeresurus stejnegeri* – *Green tree viper*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
- Trimeresurus wagleri* – *Temple pit viper*  
Systematics. Biological profile. Temple. Behaviour & temperament. Captivity. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.
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### *Atheris squamigera – African bush viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+].  
Clinical manifestations. Bite to left pinky finger.

### *Bitis arietans – Puff adder*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Taming of the puffing shrew. Materia Medica [++]. Split. Synopsis of the South African proving. Clinical manifestations. Case reports.

### *Bitis atropos – Berg adder*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations.

### *Bitis caudalis – Horned adder*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+].  
Clinical manifestations.

### *Bitis gabonica – Gaboon viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [++].  
Clinical manifestations. Blood coagulation. Struggling to breathe & live.

### *Bitis nasicornis – Rhinoceros viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+].  
Clinical manifestations.

### *Cerastes cerastes – Horned viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Sliding & winding.  
Vibration detection. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. Ischemic stroke.

### *Daboia russelii – Russell's viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Medicinal use of the venom. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations. Bleeding, paralysis, renal dysfunction & abdominal pain. Complications. Overview of effects of bite.

### *Daboia siamensis – Eastern Russell's viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Endocrine insufficiency.

### *Echis carinatus – Saw-scaled viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Drugs from venom.  
Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. Acute renal failure.

### *Proatheris superciliaris – Swamp viper*

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations. Renal cortical necrosis.

*Vipera ammodytes meridionalis* – Eastern nose-horned viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Vipera aspis* – Asp viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Clinical manifestations. Periodicity & sequelae.

*Vipera berus* – Common European viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Reproduction & dancing. Materia Medica [+++]. Constitutional aspects. Clinical manifestations. Clinical features of adder bite. Overview of effects. Specific symptoms of envenomation. Swelling nearly double natural size. Body very cold & loss of muscular power. Extreme lassitude; hardly able to walk. Burning pain & abdominal tenderness. Extreme pain at epigastrium from least pressure. Unable to move a limb, lacking strength to speak. Sore all over, black & blue. Feeling cold & sick. Constant vomiting of bilious matter. Feeling as if dying. Heart block. Case.

*Vipera daboia* = *Daboia russelii*

*Vipera lebetina* – Blunt-nosed viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Vipera palaestinae* – Palestine viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

*Vipera redi* – Central Italian asp viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [+]. Sleeping into aggravation.

*Vipera xanthina* – Ottoman viper

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour & temperament. Materia Medica [+]. Clinical manifestations.

## Turtles & Tortoises 617

### *Biological Profile*

Names. Shell. Feet. Respiration. Eating & fasting. Sexual selection. Courting & caring. Senses. Solitary. Temperature. Distinct sense of time. Turtles with tumours.

### *Power to the Shell*

Venerable upholder of the world. Turtle symbolism & associations. Turtle sayings & proverbs. The wisest of all. Festina lente – make haste slowly. From slowness to stagnation. Unmasked attention for rugged sturdiness. Toughing it out. Two sides to a turtle. Turtles, says Melville. No place like home. Calling the turtle. May my life be like a tortoise.



## Turtles & Tortoises in Homeopathy 632

### *Chelonia mydas* – Green turtle

Systematics. Biological profile. Migration – finding your wave. Exploration – finding your way. Whatever her own fate might be. Green turtle tumours. Materia Medica [+]. Green turtle poisoning.

### *Chelydra serpentina* – Snapping turtle

Systematics. Biological profile. Snake-like snapping & striking. Dual personality. Materia Medica [++].

### *Eretmochelys imbricata* – Hawksbill turtle

Systematics. Biological profile. Making for the open ocean. Truculent turtle. Materia Medica [+]. Hawksbill poisoning.

### *Geochelone sulcata* – African spurred tortoise

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour. Burrowing. Nesting. Battering, ramming & bulldozing. Materia Medica [++]. Summary of proving.

### *Lepidochelys olivacea* – Olive Ridley turtle

Systematics. Biological profile. Nesting & crying. Materia Medica [-].

### *Terrapene carolina* – Eastern box turtle

Systematics. Biological profile. Courtship & going belly up. Dog appeal. Homeward bound. Materia Medica [-].

### *Testudo hermanni* – Hermann's tortoise

Systematics. Biological profile. Behaviour. Display behaviour & clamorous copulation. Materia Medica [-].

### *Trachemys scripta elegans* – Red-eared slider

Systematics. Biological profile. Pet trade & turtle farms. Dumped heroes & pond terrorists. Not letting go. Cholos terrapini – turtle bile. Materia Medica [+]. Symptoms – case summary.

## Worm Lizards 663

### *Biological Profile*

### *Head or Tail*

### *Differences with Other Reptiles*

## Worm Lizards in Homeopathy 665

### *Amphisbaena alba* – White worm lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [-].

### *Amphisbaena vermicularis* – Wagler's worm lizard

Systematics. Biological profile. Materia Medica [++]. Forward or backward.

# PANTHEROPHIS OBSOLETUS

## Systematics

- Scientific name: *Pantherophis obsoletus* [Say, 1823].
- Synonyms: *Elaphe obsoleta* [Say, 1823]. *Coluber obsoletus* [Say, 1823].
- Common names: Western rat snake. Black rat snake.
- Family: Colubridae.

## Biological Profile

- Large, powerful, slender, non-venomous, constricting colubrid with wedge-shaped head and keeled scales. Black, except for its white or cream chin. Belly patterned with grey or brown over a background of yellow or white. Up to 1.8 m [6 ft] in length; record length 2.57 m [8.5 ft].
- Range: Central USA.
- Habitat: Forested wetland, riparian, heavily wooded areas, rocky canyons. Can be considered arboreal, as it seeks food and refuge inside hollow limbs as well as on exposed branches. Also can be found associated with human habitations, as it may take up residence in barns and associated farm structures.
- Diurnal in spring and fall, nocturnal in summer.
- Excellent climber; uses its angular ventral scales to climb straight up the trunk of a tree.
- Being able to access many different habitats, feeds on a variety of mammalian, avian, reptilian [mainly lizards] and amphibian [mainly frogs and toads] prey.
- Shy, avoids being confronted; tends to freeze and remain motionless when confronted by danger. Its colour variation, the Texas rat snake, however, is described as "Easily one of the most ill-tempered snakes found in Texas, it is non-venomous but will bite any aggressor voraciously." [Herps of Texas]
- Oviparous; 5–30 eggs per clutch.
- Hibernates.
- No subspecies. A revision of *Pantherophis obsoletus* has recommended the elimination of the various subspecies entirely, considering them all to be merely locality variations.

## Materia Medica

- No symptoms.

# THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS SIRTALIS

## Systematics

- Scientific name: *Thamnophis sirtalis* [L., 1758].
- Subspecies: *T. s. sirtalis* [L., 1758].
- Common name: Eastern garter snake.
- Family: Colubridae.

## Biological Profile

- Highly variable colubrid in both colour and pattern, but normally with 3 yellowish stripes, 1 medial and 2 lateral ones; stripes may be brownish, greenish, or bluish. There is usually a double row of alternating back spots between stripes. Ground colour mostly black, but can be brown, green, or olive. Belly greenish or yellowish, with 2 rows of indistinct black spots. Scales keeled.
- Average length 50–70 cm, maximum 1.2 m.
- Range: Eastern USA and Canada.
- Habitat: Hardwood and pine forests, lowland and upland grasslands, abandoned fields, along margins of creeks, rivers, ponds, and lakes, agricultural and urban areas, freshwater marshes.
- Diurnal; active during the cooler parts of the day – early morning, late afternoon, early evening.
- Viviparous; 10–60 young per litter.
- Preys on earthworms, millipedes, spiders, various insects, salamanders, frogs, and toads.
- Congregates in large numbers at good places to hibernate over the winter.
- First to appear in spring from hibernation and the last to hibernate in the autumn.
- Will discharge a foul-smelling musky secretion and strike when cornered.

## MATERIA MEDICA

### Sources

1 Effects of bite; clinical manifestations.

### Clinical Manifestations

‘The salivary secretions of the common garter snake [*Thamnophis sirtalis*] are elaborated from mandible glands and serve as evidence of a venom delivery system. Several cases of envenomation have resulted from bites by the garter snake species *Thamnophis sirtalis* and *Thamnophis elegans vagrans*. The victims of these bites suffered local swelling, oedema, haemorrhagic vesicles, and ecchymosis, to the extent that they required hospital admission. Systemic symptoms did not occur, but the clinical presentation was likened to that observed with pit viper envenoming. Thus, even colubrid species considered to be totally harmless are capable of causing some degree of toxinological insult.’ [Hayes, 2007]

## VIPERA AQUATICUS CARINATA

### Identity Uncertain

This snake is not *Echis carinatus*, although the name would suggest so. Swan gave it the name *Fel vipera acustica carinata* [sic], referring to ‘the serpent galls brought by Dr. Higgins from South America.’ Higgins, however, was all but clear

about its origins. He categorised a snake, which he named *Vipera echis carinata*, as occurring in both India and South America. Since snakes of the genera *Vipera* and *Echis* only occur in the Old World, the location South America obviously cannot be correct. Aside from the first mentioned *V. echis carinata*, Higgins also speaks of one with the enigmatic name *Vipera acuaticus [colubriformis] carinata*, which would explain Swan's misspelling of the name as *acustica* instead of *acuaticus*. This snake seems to be native to South America, the Colombian 'curers' [snake handlers] claiming that its gall acts as an antidote to poisoning, if we are to believe Higgins. The drawn-out name of the snake is difficult to trace back to something scientifically acceptable and accepted.

Thus, if Higgins brought the preparation with him from South America, and according to Swan he did, it cannot have been obtained from the Indian species *Echis carinata*. On the other hand, if the snake's local name *Lomo de Machete* [misspelled by Swan as 'Loina de machete'] would be anything to go for, the mystery will be solved. It would explain the addition of *colubriformis*, meaning 'colubrid-like', since *Lomo de Machete* is the non-venomous snake *Chironius carinatus* in the family *Colubridae*. It is large and known for its aggressive behaviour and goes by the names Amazonian whipsnake, keeled whipsnake, machete savane and yellow machete. It opens its mouth in vigorous threat display, meanwhile inflating its neck region to expose the white skin between the scales and biting readily when given the chance. When caught it will whip at the capturer's face or hand like an uncoiling spring, which often helps its release and subsequent escape. The specific epithet *acuaticus* refers to *aquaticus*, in allusion to this snake readily taking to water and feeding on frogs.

Higgins deemed it venomous. While highly truculent and pugnacious, it is not venomous, as Mike Boston's encounter with a large specimen in a Costa Rican rainforest demonstrates.

"You never see snakes, huh!" remarked one of the women as the taxi driver pointed out a large, electric blue keel-backed racer, *Chironius carinatus*, on the road a short distance ahead. I just can't resist catching snakes and, despite the protests from the women, I burst out of the taxi and ran towards the snake. Keel-backed racers are fast diurnal hunters, with large eyes and keen vision. They are wary snakes, and one cannot afford finesse when attempting to catch them. So I lunged at the snake, just as it was about to disappear into the undergrowth and seized it by the tail. The snake turned and struck at my face, but with reflexes of a prize boxer I dodged, and the snake missed.

I now had 6 feet of angry snake suspended from my grasp. Meanwhile, protests from the taxi were reaching fever pitch: "No, Mike!" "Please don't, Mike!" The snake then bit my knee, released and struck again at my chest. In the process of getting the snake into a more manageable position it bit me several times more on my left arm. With the snake's head now under control and my knee, chest and arm oozing rivulets of blood, I approached the taxi. I had a huge grin on my face – my prayers were answered, I thought! By the time I reached the taxi the snake had settled down in my gentle grasp. The expressions on the women's faces were ones of total disbelief. They were aghast and speechless. My enthusiastic dissertation on snakes, extolling their abundant virtues, went largely unheard!

'I released the snake, wiped the blood from my arm, chest and knee, and jumped into the taxi. The women were amazed that I was still alive, and examined my bite wounds minutely, and repeatedly. They said I was a complete lunatic and begged me to desist from such activities lest I die and leave them abandoned in the jungle. But, of course, I didn't!' [Mike Boston, Tales from the Jungle: Snakes; www.osaaventura.com]

### Systematics

- Scientific name: *Chironius carinatus* [L., 1758].
- Synonyms: *Coluber carinatus* [L., 1758]. *Natrix carinatus* [Merrem, 1820].
- Common name: Amazonian whipsnake. Keeled whipsnake. Machete savane.
- Family: Colubridae.

### Biological Profile

- Very large but slender colubrid varying in colour from dark olive green to brown or black. Back sharply ridged with a lighter stripe along the middorsal region that contrasts with the darker colouring on the upper side of its body. Chin and underside of forebody bright yellow; yellow spots on body and tail along first row of dorsal scales. Head large and distinct from the slim neck. Tail very long and thin. Up to 3 m [10 ft] in length.
- Range: Costa Rica, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil.
- Habitat: Terrestrial and arboreal, but also readily takes to water.
- Active hunter; preys on frogs, lizards, mice and birds.

### MATERIA MEDICA VIPERA AQUATICUS CARINATA

#### Sources

1 Proving Swan [USA], 1 female prover, 1M; 1885.

#### Mind

- ∞ Feels like crying, esp. when spoken to, not from pain, but from being generally miserable all over. Feels miserable in morning.
- ∞ Very little patience; small matters annoy.

#### Generals

- ∞ Restless sleep wakes with a start; cramps in limbs during sleep, < in right, in popliteal space.
- ∞ Thirst all the time; takes one goblet of cold water after another.
- ∞ Sick and miserable all over; awfully tired. Feels fatigued all the time.
- ∞ At times feels hot, yet chills crawl over her. Chilly only if uncovered. Alternate heat and crawling chills.
- ∞ Appetite poor; after eating a little, has suddenly a sense of fullness, and more food nauseates.

## Sensations

- ∞ When walking, momentary dizziness, as if she would fall backward [occiput as if very heavy].
- ∞ Head seems so heavy as to cause neck to ache.
- ∞ Sensation of a hair across nose; felt it yesterday across the hand, about third and fourth fingers.
- ∞ When lying down, noises in head like summer insects and frogs, etc., such as is heard in the country when all is quiet.

## Locals

- ∞ Headache in spells, first over left side, then stops entirely; then returns on right side; alternates.
- ∞ Face swollen on right side, and looks red.
- ∞ Saliva stringy, frothy, thick, sticky.
- ∞ Cramps in bowels, immediately after drinking cold water.
- ∞ Pains of menses, but no flow.
- ∞ Menses 12 days too late; profuse and very liquid, colour bright.
- ∞ Both breasts sore; cannot bear pressure or when lying on them.
- ∞ Can't draw a deep breath, it hurts so in left side and round to back, and for 2 hours cannot speak without catching a stitch in this side.
- ∞ Dry cough while sitting; cannot reach mucus, which seems low down under sternum; on lying down it becomes loose.
- ∞ Lungs very sore when coughing or inhaling air.
- ∞ Pains in 2 middle fingers of left hand, but most in back of hand; the pain is shooting, needle-like, going up the fingers; also aching in back of hand.
- ∞ At night, hands itch as if bitten by insects; commences about 8 p.m. and continues till toward morning; itching is on joints of fingers and wrists, and also on ankles.
- ∞ Pain in sacrum in region of the dimples and down back of left leg to popliteal space; it then appears midway down outside of calf through ankle to underside of foot.
- ∞ Soreness all through both feet; a tired pain, < standing. Feet so lame and sore, has trouble to walk. On walking, sharp pain from outer left malleolus back into heel.

## Clinical Notes

W.H. Leonard, calling the remedy 'Viperia acontica carinata', claimed its successful use in:

'Climacteric haemorrhages, flow red with dark clots, excessive flowing to prostration and faintness. There exists a small fibroid in uterus. A few doses of the remedy changed matters for the better, and the excessive haemorrhages did not return.

'Same remedy in case of a lady nursing child one year old; much prostrated from flowing for several weeks, not profusely but continuously; nearly every day nosebleed; weaning brought no relief. A prescription of China 200 did no good. Gave Viperia CM; 3 doses cured.'