

Identification Key: Venomous Snakes of the Southeast United States

Pit Viper Vs. Non

Vipers



Non-Pit Viper



Round pupil, No Pit

Cotton Mouth

Agkistrodon piscivorus

Elliptical Pupils, Heat Sensor Pit
***Rostral Pit below Nostril, +/- Broken**
 Hourglass Pattern
 Some almost Black
 May refuse to escape
Mouth Wide Gape Threat Body floats
 "above" water when swimming
 Most - Bold Facial Stripe
 24 - 48 inches



Copper Head

Agkistrodon contortrix

***Rostral Pit below Nostril, Broken**
Hourglass Pattern Bright copper-orange eyes
 Copper penny Color head
 24 - 40 inches



Moccasin face stripe.

Young w/ yellow tails.



Copperhd Orange Eyes

Timber Canebroke Rattlesnake

Crotalus horridus

Rattle + Rostral Pit
 Jagged dark bands
 Grey to Pink Background
 +/- Brown dorsal stripe
 Solid black tail
 30-60 inches,
 record over 6 ft



===== **FOLD HERE TO LAMINATE** =====

Pigmy Rattlesnake

Sistrurus miliarius

Protected
 Species in
 NC and TN

***Tiny Quiet Rattle
 + Rostral Pit**

Base Color Varies **Baby**
blue, mud red, or dark grey
 Dark rounded spots
 14 -22 inches



Diamondback Rattlesnake

Crotalus adamanteus

Rattle + Rostral Pit below

Nostril

Diamond Pattern, Bold white facial stripe.

33-72 inches

Record 8ft

Coastal states only, NC to

LA



NON-VIPER

NO Rostral Heat Sensor

Round Pupils

Pit

Coral snake *Micrurus fulvius*

Red Touches Yellow

Bands

Black Blunt Head 18-30 inches

Coastal states only

NC to LA



Photos, Drawings and Information Refs: Mark Lloyd,DVM,MedDir HSUS

A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America; Roger Conant, Isabelle Hunt Conant.

UGA Savannah River Eco Lab, JD Willson; <http://www.uga.edu/srelherp/snakes/index.htm>

National Capital Poison Center
1-800-222-1222 www.poison.org

Immediately Apply Strong Suction
60cc Syringe or Extractor^R
NO Tourniquet
NO Ice Pack, NO Cuts