

Poisonous and Non Poisonous Snakes

Poisonous Snake.	Non Poisonous snake
1> Tail cylindrical and rounded. Tail may or may not be laterally compressed. In case of sea snakes (Hydrophis) tail laterally compressed and rudder shaped, but in land snakes, tail is not laterally compressed.	Tail generally small and blunt but except a few in which tail is cylindrical and rounded.
2> Ventral scale completely across the abdomen. Head shields without loreal.	Ventral scales are not completely across the abdomen except family Colubridae or Aglypha.
3> Teeth grooved and laterated at the rear end of maxilla. Fangs or poison bearing teeth present. These are modified maxillary teeth. Fangs with a canal is found in Cobras, Kraits and mambas. This type of fangs is called Proteroglyphs. The fangs of viper and pit viper are called solenoglyphs. These are hollow, movable with a groove.	Teeth solid. Teeth may be present only in upper jaw e.g Typhlops or in only in lower jaw e.g Leptotyphlops. Some teeth may be enlarged and show fang-like but these do not possess groove or canal.

	Poisonous Snake	Nonpoisonous Snake.
a.	Head shield well developed oblong or elongated in family elapidae. central or dorsal scale hexagonal. No hood in Krait.	No Head shield.
b.	Central row of dorsal scale hexagonal, rhomboid or elliptical hood present in Cobra, King cobra.	No such characters present.
c.	No hood, two yellow spots on the black head. underside pinkish. e.g coral snake.	
d.	Very small head shield in Head triangular. no hood in family Viperidae.	
e.	Dorsal body scale oblong. Three rows of elliptical spots on the body. e.g Russell's viper.	Rough and Spiny tail shield present. Terminal part of the tail blunt. e.g Viperidae, Boa.
f.	Dorsal body scale elliptical and serrated e.g saw scaled viper. A pit beyond the nasal opening and keeled scales on body surface. e.g Pit viper.	

Poisonous Snake

Non poisonous snake.

5. There is no vestigial remnants of the hind limb.

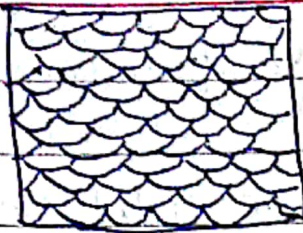
Tail elongated with vestigial remnants of the hind limb at the two sides of the vent.
e.g. Python, Giant anaconda, Boa.

6a. Body form different in different poisonous snake. In Krait Body with white cross spots is common Krait and ^{Body} with yellow and black cross bands in Banded Krait.

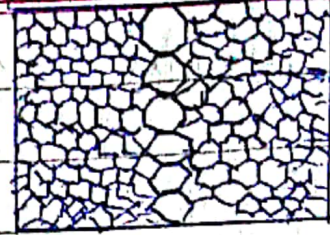
b. Cobra devoid any band on the body surface, except binocellate and monocellate marks on the dorsal surface of the head (Naja naja)

There are no such features reported in non-poisonous snakes e.g.

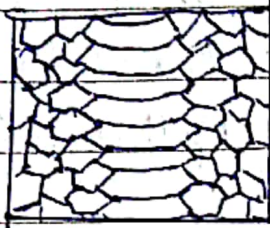
c. In King & Cobra, Body is deep olive green to yellowish. Cross bars on the body and bars on the dorsal surface of the hood. There are bands and spots on the ventral surface of the hood.



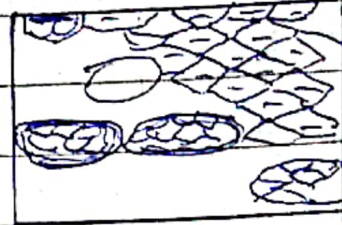
Scale of V. Side
of Primitive Snake



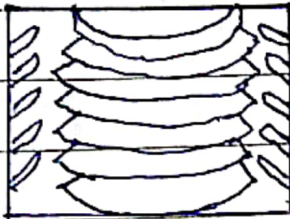
C. row of
hexagonal scale
on dorsal
side in krait



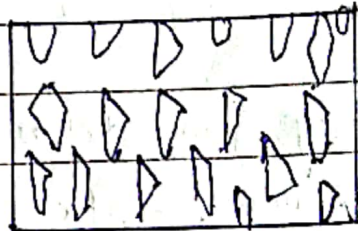
Ventral scale of
Python



Dorsal
Scale in
Viper



Ventral Scale
of Cobra



Dorsal
Scale
in
Cobra.

