



INTACH

REPTILES OF INDIA

COMMON SAND BOA (*Eryx johni johni*)



The Common Sand Boa is also known as John's boa or Red Sand Boa is a non-venomous snake. It is found in India, Pakistan and Iran. It is also known as "Two headed snake" due to its round tail which looks like a snake head.

DESCRIPTION

It has a thick body with small scales which give it a glossy look. It is reddish brown in color and grows up to 2-3 feet. Its nostril is shaped like a slit and has two enlarged scales over it. The abdominal area is white with a few brown spots.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

It is found in areas with loose soil particularly sandy, dry or rocky areas. It's commonly found hiding into burrows. It is found in states of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It is found in neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

DIET AND BEHAVIOR

The Boa feeds on rodents and other smaller reptiles. Its breeding season runs from June - September. It is a viviparous species. It moves very slowly .

ACTIVITY

1. Research about any folk stories associated with snakes and draw a comic strip depicting it :

2. Name a few places with names associated with the snake :

3. Write about the role of a snake in the ecosystem :

References:

Fauna Of India And The Adjacent Countries Vol. 3.-R. C. Sharma, Zoological Survey Of India

<https://www.india.com/viral/boa-snake-seized-in-mumbai-again-why-are-sand-boas-in-demand-one-of-the-costliest-reptiles-in-the-black-market-2127792/>

https://www.inaturalist.org/guide_taxa/1331749