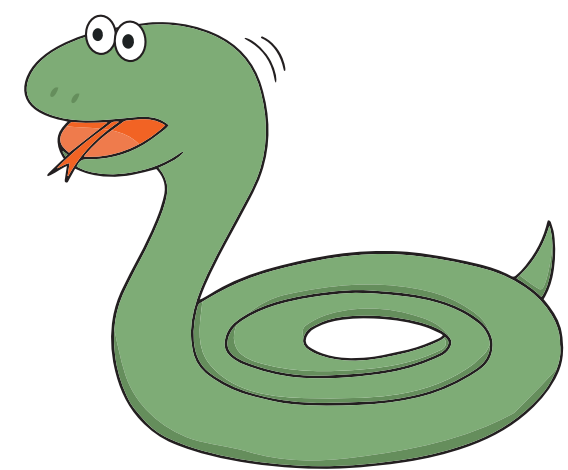


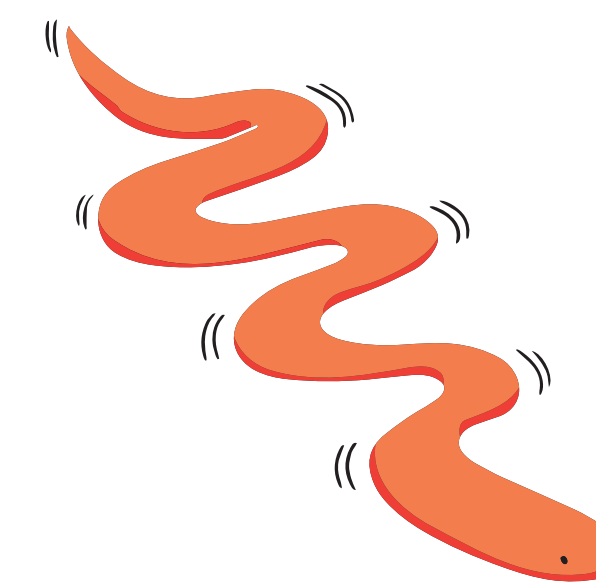
BE GOOD TO SNAKES

(They are good to us!)

OK, snakes are not fluffy, and most people don't think they are the cutest creatures on Earth. But, they belong here and are important to the ecosystem (e.g., they keep rodent populations in check).



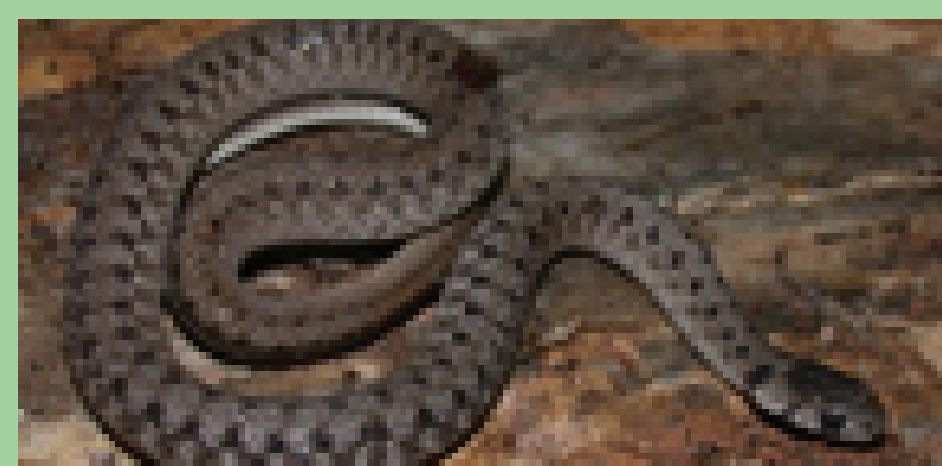
If you happen to see a snake on campus, then lucky you! There's no need to poke a stick at it, smash it, or try to move it along. It's probably more scared of you than you are of it. Just keep on walking, and everyone (at least you and the snake) will be happy.



If you are really worried about poisonous snakes, here's an illustration and some pictures for your information to help you tell if a snake is a copperhead or not.

NON-VENOMOUS SNAKES

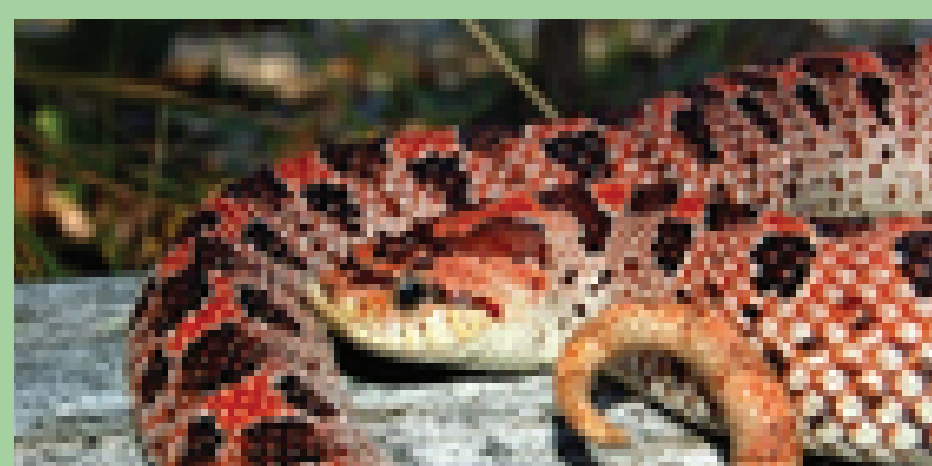
These are non-venomous snakes that live in the area, some of which are commonly misidentified.



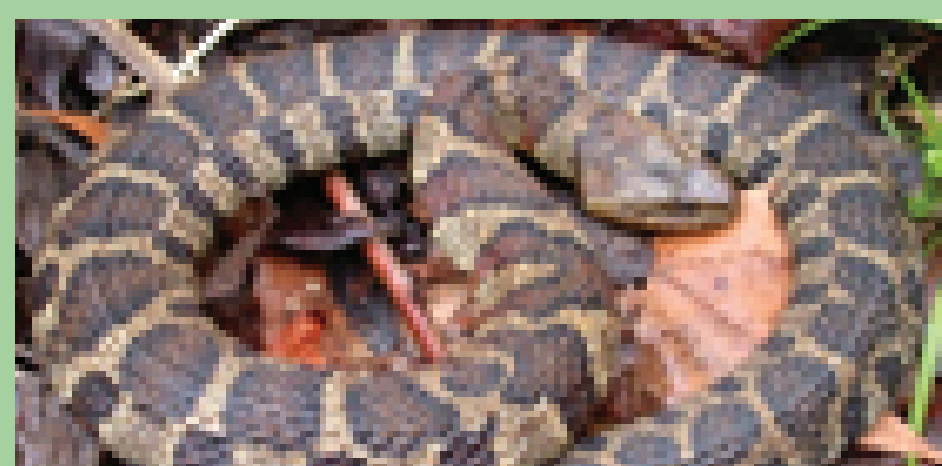
BROWN SNAKE



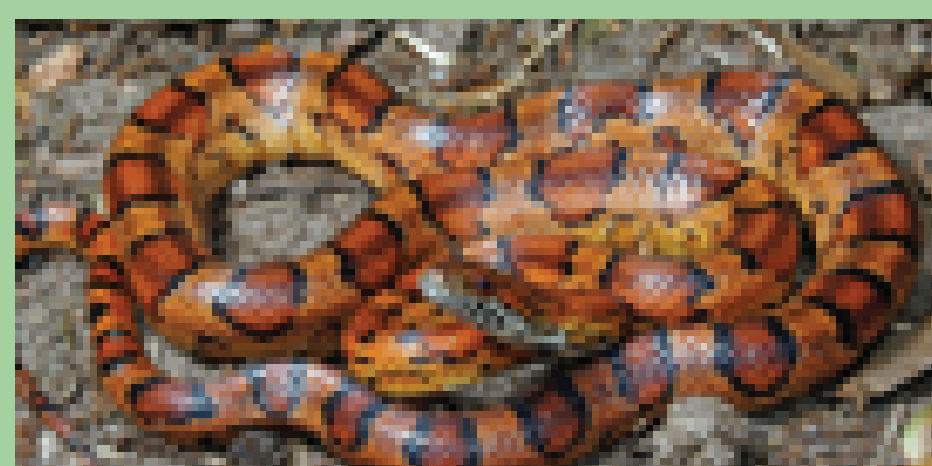
ROUGH GREEN SNAKE



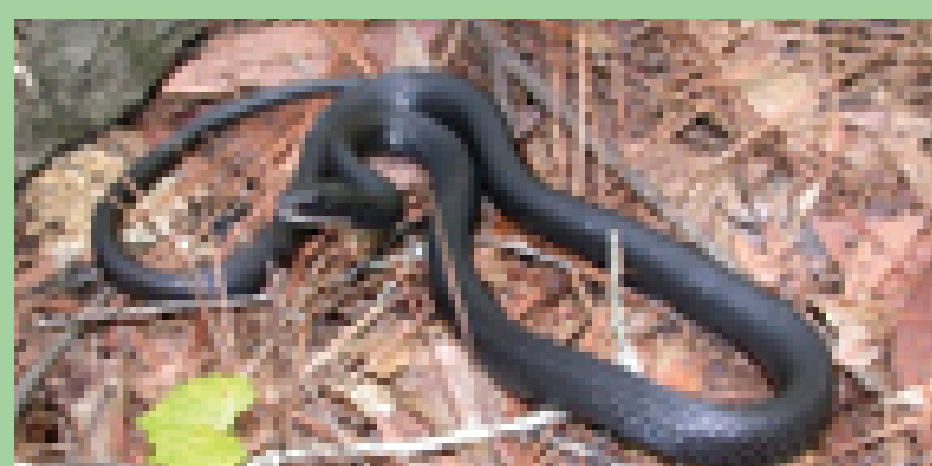
SOUTHERN HOGNOSE



NORTHERN WATERSNAKE



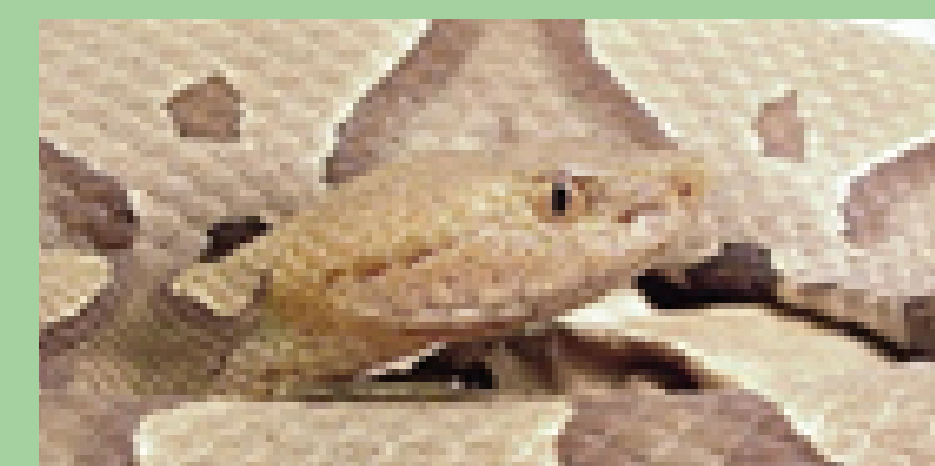
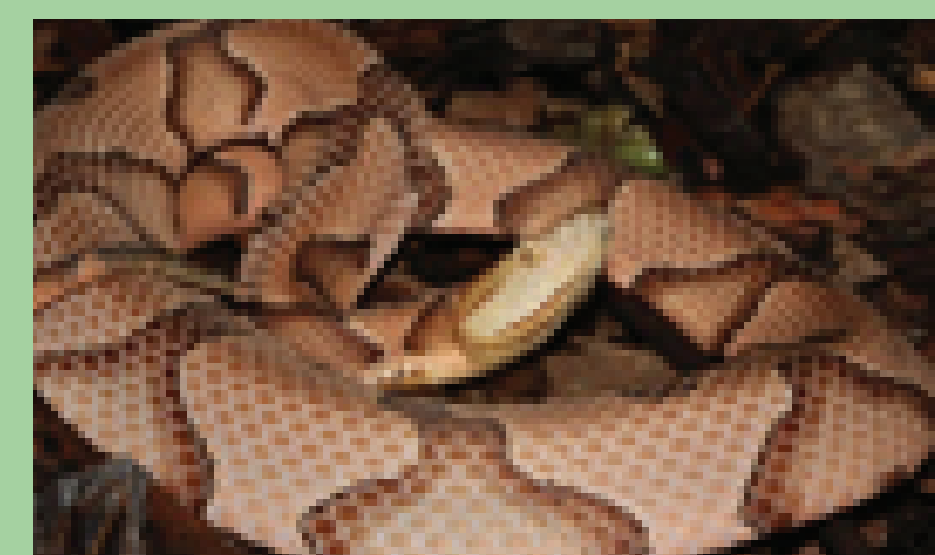
CORN SNAKE



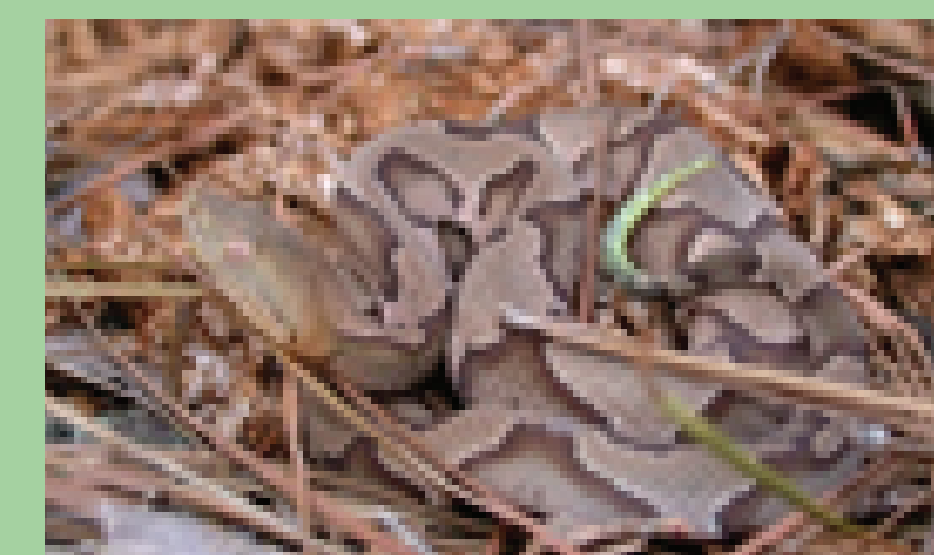
RACER SNAKE

VENOMOUS SNAKES

The Copperhead is the only venomous snake that has a habitat in this area. Other venomous snakes are not expected to be on campus.

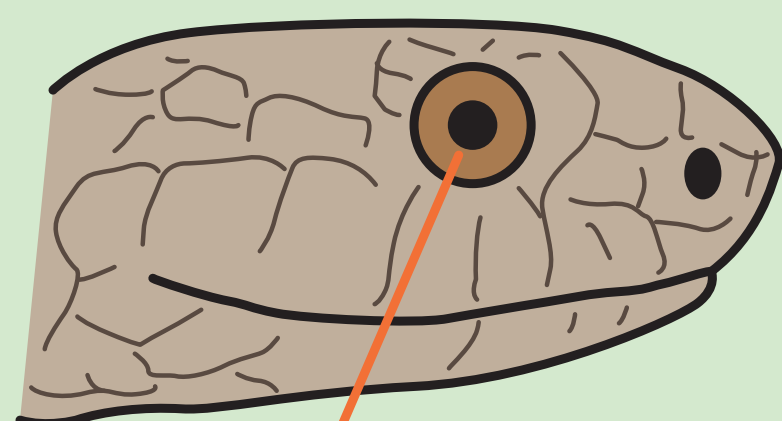


COPPERHEAD SNAKE



The characteristic markings on the Copperhead's body (alternating bands – the darker bands look a lot like hour glasses wrapped around the body and are thicker on the sides and thinner on the top) are also mimicked by a few non-venomous species of snakes.

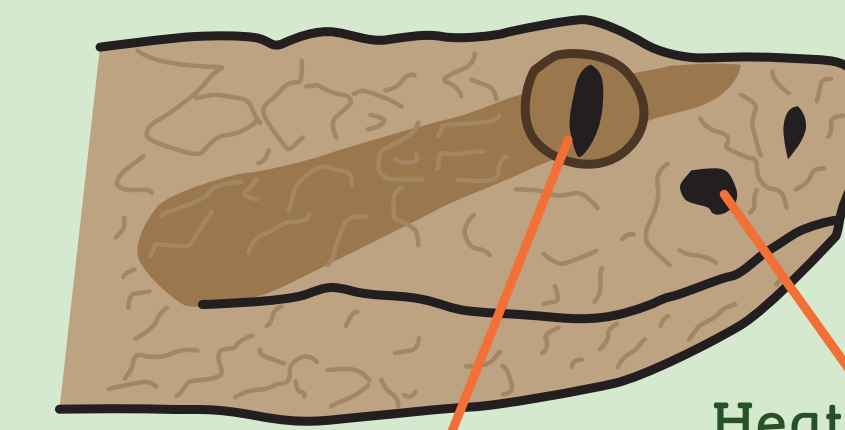
Watersnake (Non-venomous)



Round Pupil

The best way to tell is the pupil – if the pupil is a vertical slit, then it's venomous. If the pupil is round, then it's NOT a copperhead. Also, the presence of the heat sensing pits between the eyes and the nostrils is a characteristic of the copperhead. But don't feel that you have to get closer than you want to get a positive ID. Another way to identify a copperhead is from its bite. But, who wants that?

Cottonmouth (Venomous)



Elliptical Pupil

Heat Sensing Pit

This message is brought to you by the EPA Environmental Management System (EMS) Team – Site Ecology Subcommittee
See any interesting flora or fauna on campus? Feel free to email a pic to e4e@epa.gov