LANCE-HEADED PIT VIPERS

DESCRIPTION AND BIOLOGY

Lance-headed vipers are a group of snakes belonging to the Viperidae family. They are characterized by a long, slender body, a triangular head, and a narrow, notched tail. These snakes are venomous and can be quite aggressive. Lance-headed vipers are known for their ability to "rattle" or "sting" when threatened, which is a way of warning potential predators. They are found in the Philippines and are arboreal, usually found in bushes or in small trees. They are active during the day and are nocturnal. These snakes are not aggressive unless threatened. They are predators of small mammals, birds, and other snakes.

HABITATS

These snakes inhabit a variety of habitats in the Philippines, including forests, savannas, and agricultural areas. They are found in both mountainous and lowland areas. Lance-headed vipers are most common in the central and southern regions of the Philippines. They are not found in the large islands of the country, such as Luzon and Mindanao. These snakes are primarily found in the lowland areas of the Philippines, but are also found in the mountainous regions.

SNAKE IDENTIFICATION

- **LANCE-HEADED PIT VIPERS**
  - **Description:** These snakes are long, slender, and have a narrow, notched tail. They have a triangular head.
  - **Color:** The color of these snakes can vary from gray to brown, with darker bands along the sides.
  - **Size:** The length of these snakes can vary from 2 to 3 feet.

SNAKE VENOMS AND THEIR EFFECTS

Lance-headed pit vipers are responsible for the majority of snakebites in the Philippines. The venom of these snakes is highly potent and can be deadly. The venom is a mixture of enzymes and toxins that can cause severe pain, swelling, and bleeding. In severe cases, the venom can cause respiratory failure, heart failure, and death. The venom of these snakes is a potent neurotoxin, and can cause paralysis.

SNAKEBITES PREVENTION

1. **Avoid snakes:** Stay away from snakes and avoid walking through areas where snakes are likely to be. Use walking sticks or flashlights to check the ground before you step on it.
2. **Know the signs:** Look for the presence of snakes in the area you are visiting. If you see a snake, do not touch it.
3. **Stay calm:** If you are bitten by a snake, stay calm and do not panic. Do not run or try to attract the snake.
4. **Seek medical attention:** Immediately seek medical attention if you are bitten by a snake. Do not try to treat the bite yourself.

Snakes are not typically aggressive and will only bite if threatened. If you see a snake, give it plenty of space and avoid contact. If you are bitten by a snake, seek medical attention immediately. Identify the snake if possible and tell the doctor about the bite. Be sure to tell the doctor if you are allergic to snake venom.

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