

File Name: snakes

Data: Snakes are elongated, limbless, carnivorous reptiles of the suborder Serpentes. Like all other squamates, snakes are

ectothermic, amniote vertebrates covered in overlapping scales. Many species of snakes have skulls with several more joints

than their lizard ancestors, enabling them to swallow prey much larger than their heads (cranial kinesis). To accommodate their

narrow bodies, snakes' paired organs (such as kidneys) appear one in front of the other instead of side by side, and most have

only one functional lung. Some species retain a pelvic girdle with a pair of vestigial claws on either side of the cloaca. Lizards

have evolved elongate bodies without limbs or with greatly reduced limbs about twenty-five times independently via

convergent evolution, leading to many lineages of legless lizards.[3] These resemble snakes, but several common groups of

legless lizards have eyelids and external ears, which snakes lack, although this rule is not universal (see *Amphisbaenia*,

Dibamidae, and *Pygopodidae*).