

Cobra



Cobra is the common name of various snakes, most of which belong to the genus *Naja*.^[1]

Biology

All of the known cobras are venomous, and many are capable of rearing upwards and producing a hood when threatened.^[a]

Other snakes known as "cobras"

While the members of the genus *Naja* constitute the true cobras, the name *cobra* is also applied to these other genera and species:

- The rinkhals, ringhals or ring-necked spitting cobra (*Hemachatus haemachatus*) so-called for its neck band as well as its habit of rearing upwards and producing a hood when threatened^[2]
- The king cobra or hamadryad (*Ophiophagus hannah*)^[3]
- The two species of tree cobras, Goldie's tree cobra (*Pseudohaje goldii*) and the black tree cobra (*Pseudohaje nigra*)^[4]
- The two species of shield-nosed cobras, the Cape coral snake (*Aspidelaps lubricus*) and the shield-nosed cobra (*Aspidelaps scutatus*)^[4]:p.76
- The two species of black desert cobras or desert black snakes, *Walterinnesia aegyptia* and *Walterinnesia morgani*, neither of which rears upwards and produces a hood when threatened^[4]:p.65
- The eastern coral snake or American cobra (*Micrurus fulvius*), which also does not rear upwards and produce a hood when threatened^[4]:p.30

The false water cobra (*Hydrodynastes gigas*) is the only "cobra" species that is not a member of the Elapidae. It does not rear upwards, produces only a slight flattening of the neck when threatened, and is only mildly venomous.^[4]:p.53

Notes

- Two kinds of non-venomous snake, the hognose snakes and the striped keelback,

Cobra

Temporal range: Miocene-Holocene



Indian cobra (*Naja naja*) in a defensive posture

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	<u>Animalia</u>
Phylum:	<u>Chordata</u>
Class:	<u>Reptilia</u>
Order:	<u>Squamata</u>
Suborder:	<u>Serpentes</u>
Family:	<u>Elapidae</u> (with some exceptions) <u>Laurenti</u> , 1768

also rear upwards and produce hoods but are not considered "cobras"; likewise, some venomous elapid snakes, such as the black mamba, are also capable of producing hoods but are not called "cobras".

References

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