**Flat-headed (Flathead) Snake**

***Tantilla gracilis***

Source: Houstonherp.com Source: Balconesherping.com

DESCRIPTION

* Back is tan, yellowish brown, or reddish brown
* Unpatterned
* Head is a bit darker than body
* Belly is usually whitish with a pale salmon pink to coral red hue down its middle
* Head is moderately flattened, about the same width as the neck
* Snake is slender and 7-8 inches in length

LIFE CYCLE

* Females lay clutches of 1-4 eggs in late spring
* Young hatch in late summer or early fall

BEHAVIOR

* Described as a secretive burrower

HABITAT

* Favors habitats with loose, damp soil into which it can easily tunnel

FOOD

* Small insect larvae, scorpions, spiders, centipedes, sow bugs and snails

SOURCES

* <http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/>
* *Texas Snakes; a Field Guide*, James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, UT Press, Austin, 2005, pp. 256-57.
* <http://www.herpsofarkansas.com/Snake/TantillaGracilis>
* <http://www.herpsoftexas.org/content/flat-headed-snake>
* Houstonherp.com
* <https://webspace.utexas.edu/s681/webpage/LLSnakes2.html>
* <http://balconesherping.wordpress.com/>

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