**Rough Earth Snake**

***Virginia striatula***



Photo by Adam Dawson, Austinreptileservice.net Photo by Chris Harrison, http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/

DESCRIPTION

* Small brown unpatterned snake, usually 7-10 inches in length.
* Cone-shaped head.
* Non-venomous.

LIFE CYCLE

* Ovoviviparous, a mode of reproduction in which the embryos develop inside eggs, which are retained in the mother until they are ready to hatch, the unborn being nourished by egg yolk.
* Brood size is 3 – 8, with newborns being about 4 inches.

BEHAVIOR

* Harmless and not aggressive
* Defense is to defecate, making them less palatable to would-be predators

HABITAT

* Fossorial, burrowing into leaf litter, loose soil, or beneath rotting logs and other ground debris
* Habitats not prone to flooding
* Fares well in urban areas, along foundations, in gardens and cultivated soil.

FOOD

* Earthworms
* Soft-bodied arthropods
* Snails and slugs

SOURCES

* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/solid.html>
* <http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/>
* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_striatula>
* *Texas Snakes; a Field Guide*; James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, UT Press, 2005, pp. 292-93.