**Eastern Hognose Snake**

***Heterodon platirhinos***

Source: Wikipedia Source: Balconesherping.com

DESCRIPTION

* Brown blotches on a background of various shades of red, gray, green, brown or yellow.
* Belly can be solid grey, yellow or cream colored.
* Easily recognized by its upturned snout.
* Males average 2 feet; females up to 4 feet.
* Stocky body, head somewhat wider than neck.
* Rear-fanged - venom is delivered by a pair of fangs in the rear of the mouth.

LIFE CYCLE

* Mate in April and May.
* Females lay 8-40 eggs in June or early July, but do not take care of the eggs or young.
* Eggs hatch from late July to September.

BEHAVIOR

* This snake will flare its head and neck to resemble a cobra’s hood and hiss very loudly.
* If this doesn’t work, it will roll over with its mouth open and “play dead.”
* Snout allows them to burrow easily into the soil for shelter or to seek their prey.
* Not considered dangerous to humans because they are not inclined to bite.
* Overwinters in burrows.

HABITAT

 \* Habitats with loose soil and amphibian prey.

FOOD

* Almost exclusively feeds on toads.
* May also eat other amphibians, like frogs and salamanders.
* Young snakes may eat crickets and other insects.

SOURCES

* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/blotches.html>
* Chris Harper presentation to ECRC
* <http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/>
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* <http://bugsinthenews.com/Texas%20Snake%20Web/eastern_hognose_snake_web.htm>
* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/blotches.html>
* <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/63820/0>