Intergraded Kingsnake

*Lampropeltis getula*

Photo by Katherine Bedrich Photo by Katherine Bedrich

The Intergraded Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis Getula, Holbrooki X spendida*) is the result of the overlapping ranges of two subspecies of *Lampropeltis Getula*, the Desert King Snake and the Speckled King Snake in central Texas.

**DESCRIPTION**

* Black body with orange or yellow speckling that forms a chain or blotch pattern on its back
* Stout body of uniform thickness for the entire length
* Average length is 3 to 4 feet

**LIFE CYCLE**

* Oviparous; females lay up to several dozen eggs from June to August
* Eggs hatch after two to two-and-a-half months of incubation
* Breeding takes place from May to late June (after a 2 to 3 month period of cooler weather)

**BEHAVIOR**

* Usually docile; a popular pet snake.
* When threatened, they will shake their tails like a rattlesnake.
* Also musk or defecate or bite when threatened.
* Diurnal, except during the hottest weather

**HABITAT**

* Open areas preferred, especially grassland
* Also oak woodland, abandoned farms, sand, riparian zones

**FOOD**

* Other snakes, including venomous snakes
* Amphibians, turtle eggs lizards, small mammals (which they kill by constriction)

**SOURCES**

* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lampropeltis_getula#Common_names>
* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/blotches.html>
* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lampropeltis_getula_holbrooki>
* <http://www.kingsnake.com/king/getula/ggetula.html>
* *Texas Snakes; a Field Guide*, James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, UT Press, Austin, 2005, pp. 168-171.