**Texas Brown Snake**

*Storeria dekayi texana*

 Source: Houstonherp.com

**DESCRIPTION**

* Fairly evenly colored brown to tan, sometimes brick red
* A faint lighter stripe down the middle of the back
* Dark brown spots around the eyes.
* Hatchlings measure 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 inches; adults average 12 inches

**LIFE CYCLE**

* Ovoviviparous, meaning internal fertilization; embryos develop inside eggs
* Hatch as live snakes.
* Mating occurs in spring
* Females bear 3-15 live young in August, early September

**BEHAVIOR**

* Non-venomous
* Defends itself by imitating venomous snake, coils, raises its head, and strikes out.
* Because of its diet of snails and slugs, it is the gardener’s friend

**HABITAT**

* Cool, dark, moist soil of woodlands;
* Thick grass mats and garden mulching in urban areas

**FOOD**

* Snails and slugs primarily
* Also insects, spiders and cricket frogs.

**SOURCES**

* <http://www.texassnakes.net/index.htm>
* [www.houstonherp.com/TxBrown.html](http://www.houstonherp.com/TxBrown.html)
* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bds8P-88kq4> - a very good video displaying the difference between Texas Brown Snake and Southern Copperhead
* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/solid.html>
* Wikipedia
* Personal Experience

Photo by Adam Dawson.