**Texas Coral Snake**

***Micrurus tenor***



Photo by Dorothy Mayer, El Camino Real Chapter

DESCRIPTION

* Red, yellow and black bands encircling the body, with the red touching the yellow (“red and yellow, kill a fellow”).
* Small black head, very small mouth
* Blunt head, not much wider than neck
* Slender trunk, not much wider than a pen
* Averages 2-3feet.
* Venomous.

LIFE CYCLE

* Females lay 3-12 eggs in June
* Eggs hatch in September

BEHAVIOR

* Diurnal (active in daytime)
* Because of their small mouths and short fangs, they have to chew the victim to inject the venom.
* Secretive, reluctant to bite

HABITAT

* Primarily fossorial (living underground)
* Come to the surface when it rains or during breeding season
* Live in woodlands; also attracted to yards landscaped with dry wood or flagstones

FOOD

* small snakes
* lizards
* frogs
* nesting birds

SOURCES

* <http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/ols/lectures/ppts/39.pdf>
* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/bands.html>
* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTRmjkFwKBE&feature=related> - a video explaining about the Texas Coral Snake.
* <http://www.houstonherp.com/Coral.htm>
* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coral_snake>
* *Texas Snakes; a Field Guide*, James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, UT Press, 2005, pp. 300-303.