**Texas Long-nosed Snake**

***Rhinocheilus lecontei tesselatus***

Source: Wikipedia Source: Wikipedia

DESCRIPTION

* Black, yellow-edged saddles alternate with red blotches, getting narrower until they come to blunt points on the belly. Cream-colored and black spots dot the sides and obscure the main pattern.
* Mostly black head tipped with long, pointed slightly upward-tilting red or pink snout, is speckled with yellow dots.
* 20 - 30 inches when full grown.
* Non-venomous

LIFE CYCLE

* Oviparous, laying clutches of 4-9 eggs in early summer
* Eggs hatch in late summer, early fall

BEHAVIOR

* Shy
* Nocturnal
* Burrowing
* Defense consists of releasing a foul smelling musk, or blood from the cloaca (posterior vent)

HABITAT

* Found over the western two-thirds of Texas
* Prefers dry habitats with sandy to gravelly soils

FOOD

* Lizards, amphibians
* Sometimes smaller snakes
* Infrequently, rodents

SOURCES

* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhinocheilus_lecontei_tessellatus>
* *Texas Snakes; A Field Guide*, James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, UT Press, Austin, 2005, pp.232-33.
* [http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/](http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/%20)