

VENOMOUS



Saharan Sand Viper

(*Cerastes vipera*)



Max length
50 cm



These short vipers are common in sandy habitats and sand dunes of the Saharan Desert onto the Arabian peninsula. The Saharan Sand Viper is a small snake of around 30 cm with a maximum size of around 50 cm. They are nocturnal and actively hunt at night. During the day this snake hides under bushes or buried in the sand.

This species feeds on lizards and geckos that it ambushes from a buried position in the sand, with only the eyes sticking out above the sand. The venom of this snake is not well known, but causes severe swelling, and nausea. Although no human fatalities have been recorded, bites should be treated at a hospital.



Photo - Luke and Ursula Verburgt - Enviro-Insight