

## Daniel Heuclin: A Wildlife Photographer in his own words

In the course of my life I have found myself face to face with the world's deadliest snakes, and that is what I love most: always trying to get *the* photo. In 40 years of globe-trotting I have amassed hundreds of thousands of images about animals, primitive cultures and ethnic communities, but snakes still are my first love. I was supposed to become a doctor, but I have chosen to be a nature photographer. Being one offers me the possibility of travelling, searching for snakes and other animals. It's my great passion. My mother used to tell me that I brought home my first snake when I was two, but I started to get really interested in them when I turned seven, and since my father didn't want me to bring them home I moved to Paris when I turned twenty-one. There I reared snakes, pumas and crocodiles, and I started travelling to photograph animals in their natural environment. People ask me how I can get so close to so many deadly species. The secret is immobility. Snakes don't see well, but have an acute perception of movement. Today I live in the vicinity of Poitiers, in France. I rear snakes and amphibians, I photograph them and I

study their behavior. I have more than 400 animals in my home, and I have a license to keep venomous reptile species, amphibians, small mammals and spiders. I also catch snakes in the wild to photograph them and their behavior in a controlled environment, and then I release them where they were found. In the course of my lifelong career as a wildlife photographer specializing in snakes, I have received about forty envenomations by venomous animals - of which four by different cobra species, with the remaining ones by several vipers, rattlesnakes, scorpions and even a Gila monster *Heloderma* sp.. Every year, I organize a series of conferences about venomous snakes and I present a show of my images at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. But in forty years of activity I have also been able to touch first-hand the terrifying man-made degradation afflicting all the world's different natural habitats. This is why I keep photographing - to show the vital relationship between man and nature, and to show that the two are inextricably linked. ●



# The Snake Charmer

A legendary pioneer of herpetological photography who has not been afraid to pay a heavy price to realize his spectacular snake portraits - in more than forty years of dealing with some of the world's deadliest snake species

<http://www.facebook.com/daniel.heuclin>





**White-lipped Tree viper**

*Cryptelytrops albolabris*

Found in northern India (Assam), Nicobar Islands, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, southern China (Fukien, Hainan, Kwangsi, Kwangtung), Hong Kong, West Malaysia, Indonesia (Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi, Java, Madoera, Lombok, Sumbawa, Komodo, Flores, Sumba, Roti, Timor, Kisar, Wetar).





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**Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake**

*Crotalus atrox*

Found in the United States from central Arkansas to southeastern and Central California, south into Mexico as far as northern Sinaloa, Hidalgo and northern Veracruz. Disjunct populations exist in southern Veracruz and southeastern Oaxaca. The type locality given is "Indianola" (Indianola, Calhoun County, Texas, USA).

**Wagler's Pit Viper**

*Tropidolaemus wagleri*

Found in southern Thailand west Malaysia, in Indonesia on Sumatra, the islands of the Riau Archipelago, Bangka, Billiton, Nias, the Mentawai Islands (Siberut), Natuna, Karimata, Borneo, Sulawesi and Buton, and in the Philippines on the islands of Balabac, Basilan, Bohol, Dinagat, Jolo, Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Negros, Palawan, Samar and Tumindao.



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**Kramer's Pit Viper**

*Cryptelytrops macrops*  
Found in Southeast Asia  
in northern Cambodia,  
Laos, Thailand, and  
southern Vietnam.

**Egyptian cobra**

*Naja haje*  
Found across most of  
North Africa north of the  
Sahara, across the savan-  
nas of West Africa to the  
south of the Sahara, south  
to the Congo basin and  
east to Kenya and  
Tanzania, and in southern  
parts of the Arabian  
Peninsula







**Pope's Tree Viper**

*Popeia popeorum*

Found in Northern India, Burma, Thailand, West Malaysia and Vietnam. In Indonesia, it occurs on the islands of Sumatra, Mentawai Islands (Siberut, Sipora, North Pagai) and Borneo.



**Copperhead**

*Agkistrodon contortrix*

Found in the United States in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

In Mexico, it occurs in Chihuahua and Coahuila.







**Mohave rattlesnake**

*Crotalus scutulatus*

Found in the southwestern United States in southern California, southern Nevada, extreme southwestern Utah, most of Arizona, southern New Mexico, and some of Texas. It also ranges southward through much of Mexico to southern Puebla.

**Green bush viper**

*Atheris squamigera*

Found in West and central Africa: Ivory Coast and Ghana, eastward through southern Nigeria to Cameroon, southern Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo, DR Congo, northern Angola, Uganda, Tanzania, western Kenya and Bioko Island.







**Indian, Spectacled or Common Cobra**

*Naja naja*

Native to the Indian subcontinent which includes present day Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.





**Visayan or Samar cobra**

*Naja samarensis*  
 Found in the southern Philippines, and endemic to the islands of Dinagat, Siargao, Camiguin Sur, Bohol, Eastern Visayas region (Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar) and Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

**Sidewinder**

*Crotalus cerastes*  
 In the southwestern United States, this species is found in the desert region of eastern California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, and western Arizona. In northwestern Mexico, it is found in western Sonora and eastern Baja California.





**Desert Horned Viper**

*Cerastes cerastes*

Found in arid North Africa (Morocco, Mauritania and Mali, eastward through Algeria, Tunisia, Niger, Libya and Chad to Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia) through Sinai to the northern Negev of Israel. In the Arabian Peninsula, it occurs in Yemen, Kuwait, extreme southwestern Saudi Arabia and parts of the country in Qatar







**Red Spitting Cobra**

*Naja pallida*

The red spitting cobra is mainly found in East Africa, including Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, southern Egypt, northern and eastern Ethiopia, and northern Tanzania and northern Sudan. It is also widespread in the dry country of eastern and northern Kenya.

**White-lipped Pit Viper**

*Cryptelytrops albolabris*

Found in northern India (Assam), Nicobar Islands, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, southern China (Fukien, Hainan, Kwangsi, Kwangtung), Hong Kong, West Malaysia, Indonesia (Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi, Java, Madoera, Lombok, Sumbawa, Komodo, Flores, Sumba, Roti, Timor, Kisar, Wetar).





**Meadow viper**

*Vipera ursinii*

Found in southeastern France, Hungary, central Italy, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, northern and northeastern Macedonia, Albania, Romania, northern Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, northwestern Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and eastern Uzbekistan steppes to China (Xinjiang).







**Common cobra**

*Naja naja*

Native to the Indian subcontinent which includes present day Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

**Eastern Green Mamba**

*Dendroaspis angusticeps*

This species is indigenous to more coastal regions of southern and east Africa. The eastern green mamba's range extends from Kenya south through Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, eastern Zimbabwe, into South Africa as far as southern Natal and northern Pondoland. It can also be found in Zanzibar.







**Canebrake rattlesnake**

*Crotalus horridus atricaudatus*

Found in the eastern United States from southern Minnesota and southern New Hampshire, south to east Texas and north Florida.





**Philippine cobra**  
*Naja philippinensis*  
Found in the northern regions of the Philippines on the islands of Luzon, Mindoro, Catanduanes, and Masbate.

**Equatorial Spitting Cobra**  
*Naja sumatrana*  
found in the equatorial Southeast Asian nations of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and in the Philippines. In Indonesia it occurs in the islands of Sumatra, Borneo, Bangka, Belitung, and the Riau Archipelago.







**Usambara eyelash viper**

*Atheris ceratophora*

Found in the Usambara and Uzungwe Mountains in Tanzania. It is probably also found in the Uluguru Mountains.



**Philippine Pit Viper**

*Trimeresurus flavomaculatus*

Found on the Philippine islands of Agutayan, Batan, Camiguin, Catanduanes, Dinagat, Jolo, Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Mindoro, Negros, and Polillo.





**Green bush viper**  
*Atheris squamigera*  
Found in West and central Africa: Ivory Coast and Ghana, eastward through southern Nigeria to Cameroon, southern Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo, DR Congo, northern Angola, Uganda, Tanzania, western Kenya and Bioko Island.