

Atheris chlorechis



Scientific Classification

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|-----------|---------------|
| Kingdom: | Anamalia |
| Phylum: | Cordata |
| Class: | Reptilia |
| Order: | Squamata |
| Suborder: | Serpentes |
| Family: | viperidae |
| Genus: | Atheris |
| Subgenus: | A. chlorechis |

Binomial Name

Atheris chlorechis
([Pel](#), 1851)



Synonyms

- *Vipera chlorechis* [Pel](#), 1851
- *Vipera chloroechis* [Schlegel](#), 1855
- *Vipera (Echis) chloroechis* — [Jan](#), 1859
- *Tox[icoa]. chloroëchis* — [Cope](#), 1860
- *Vipera chloroechis* — [Cope](#), 1862
- *E[chis]. chlorechis* — [Jan](#), 1863
- *Atheris polylepis* [W. Peters](#), 1864
- *Atheris chloroëchis* — [W. Peters](#), 1864
- *Atheris proximus* [Rochebrune](#), 1885
- *Atheris chlorechis* [Boulenger](#), 1896
- *Atheris chloraechis* [Cansdale](#), 1961
- *Atheris chlorechis* — [Broadley](#), 1996^[2]

Common names: *western bush viper*,^[3] *West African leaf viper*,^[4] [more](#).

Atheris chlorechis is a [venomous viper species](#) found only in the [forests](#) of [West Africa](#).^[3] No [subspecies](#) are currently recognized.^[5]

Description

Adults average 50 cm (20 inches) in total length (body + tail), with a maximum total length of 70 cm (28 in). The tail is relatively long. The body is relatively slender, with 25-36 midbody rows of [dorsal scales](#). These are heavily keeled, with the keels ending in a swelling at the end of each scale.^[3]

Adults have a uniform light green ground color, overlaid with a series of faint yellow, roughly paired spots running dorsally along the length of the body and about 2.5 cm (about 1 in) apart. The belly is pale green in color.^[3] Newborns are tan-brown in color, but this changes to a yellow-green hue with irregular dark spots within 24 hours.^[6] This second color phase has been described as the reverse of that of the adults and is only seen in individuals less than 25 cm (9.8 in) in total length.^{[3][6]}

Common names

Western bush viper,^[3] *West African leaf viper*,^[4] *West African tree viper*.^[7]

Geographic range

[West Africa](#) including [Guinea-Bissau](#), [Guinea](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Liberia](#), [Ivory Coast](#), [Ghana](#), [Togo](#), [Benin](#), isolated locations in [Nigeria](#), [Cameroon](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#) and [Gabon](#).

The [type locality](#) is listed as "*Boutre, Ghana*".^[2]

Habitat

Found in forests, in dense foliage about 1–2 m (about 3–6 ft) above the ground.^[3]

Feeding

Said to feed on [rodents](#), [lizards](#) and [tree frogs](#).^[3]

Reproduction

Gives birth to 6-9 young in March to April. Newborns are 131–151 mm (about 5-6 inches) in total length.^[6]