

Gonyosoma boulengeri



[Least Concern](#) (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Anamalia
Phylum:	Cordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Squamata
Suborder:	Serpentes
Family:	Colubridae
Genus:	Gonyosoma
Subgenus:	G. boulengeri

Binomial Name

Gonyosoma boulengeri
([Mocquard](#), 1897)

Synonyms

- *Rhynchophis boulengeri*
Mocquard, 1897
- *Proboscidophis versicolor*
[Fan](#), 1931
- *Rhynchophis boulengeri*
— [M.A. Smith](#), 1943
- *Gonyosoma boulengeri*
— [Chen](#) et al., 2014

The **rhinoceros ratsnake** (*Gonyosoma boulengeri*), also commonly known as the **rhinoceros snake**, **rhino rat snake**, and **Vietnamese longnose snake**,^[3] is a [species](#) of [nonvenomous ratsnake](#) in the [family Colubridae](#). The species is found from northern [Vietnam](#) to southern [China](#). It has a prominent, distinctive, scaled protrusion on the front of its snout, which has led to its common naming after a [rhinoceros](#).^[4]

Etymology

The [specific name](#), *boulengeri*, is in honor of [Belgian-British biologist George Albert Boulenger](#).^{[5][6][7]}

Geographic range

G. boulengeri is found in northern Vietnam including [Tam Dao](#),^[8] and in southern [China](#).^[9] During a 2001 survey, 10 specimens were observed in [Yên Bái Province](#), northern Vietnam.^[10]

Description

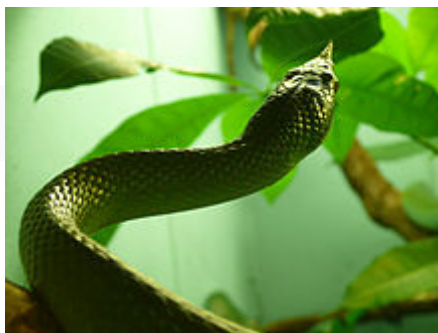


Rhinoceros ratsnake showing full body coils

Adult size of *G. boulengeri* is 100–160 cm (39–63 in) in total length (including tail). Its scale count includes 19 rows of [dorsals](#) at midbody.^[9]

Natural history

The rhinoceros ratsnake inhabits [subtropical rainforests](#) at elevations between 300 and 1,100 m (980 and 3,610 ft), particularly valleys with streams. It is generally [arboreal](#), and mostly [nocturnal](#), hunting small [mice](#) and other [rodents](#), [birds](#), and perhaps other [vertebrate](#) prey. [Oviparous](#), its mating season from April to May may produce five to 10 eggs in a [clutch](#). After 60 days' [incubation](#), [hatchlings](#) are 30–35 cm (12–14 in) total length, brownish grey with dark edges on several [dorsal scales](#). As they mature, rhinoceros ratsnakes change color to steel grey at about 12–14 months, then to a bluish green or green adult hue at about 24 months. However, a rare few individuals maintain their steel grey [subadult](#) color and do not pass into ordinarily mature color phase.^[8]



Rhinoceros ratsnake, dorsal