

Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis



Scientific Classification

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Kingdom: | Anamalia |
| Phylum: | Cordata |
| Class: | Reptilia |
| Order: | Squamata |
| Suborder: | Serpentes |
| Family: | Colubridae |
| Genus: | Lampropeltis |
| Species: | <i>L.triangulum</i> |
| SubSpecies: | L.T. hondurensis |

trinomial Name

Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis

[K.L. Williams, 1978^{\[1\]}](#)

Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis, commonly known as the **Honduran milk snake**, is an [egg](#) laying [species](#) of nonvenomous [colubrid snake](#). It is one of the more commonly [bred milk snakes](#) in captivity and is one of the larger milk snakes, reaching a length of 5 feet

Taxonomy

The [generic](#) name (*Lampropeltis*) is derived from the [Ancient Greek](#) *lamprós* (λαμπρός) meaning "bright" and *peltas* (πελτας) meaning "shield", after the sheen of their scales. Its [specific](#) name (*triangulum*) is [Latin](#) for "triangle" and refers to the three colors found on the scales of the species (red, black, and yellow). Its subspecific name *hondurensis* is a Latinization of their primary country of origin: Honduras.^[2]

Description

The Honduran milk snake's base color is red with distinct rings or bands of black and yellow.^[3] In some cases the yellow is actually a deep orange color and the animal in question is referred to as a tangerine phase. The Honduran milk snake is one of the larger subspecies of milk snake, attaining a length of 48 inches in the wild and some captive specimens reaching a length of 5 feet. The Honduran milk snake has a resemblance to the [coral snake](#) and this similarity in color, known as [Batesian mimicry](#), helps protect the snake from potential predators.^[4]

Habitat

The Honduran milk snake inhabits low to medium elevations of the tropical areas of [Honduras](#), [Nicaragua](#), and Northeastern [Costa Rica](#).^[2]

Diet

The Honduran milk snake uses [constriction](#) to kill its prey and tends to be opportunistic when it comes to its [diet](#); they eat other [snakes](#) ([ophiophagy](#)), including [venomous](#) snakes, [lizards](#), [rodents](#), [birds](#) and [eggs](#).^[3]

Reproduction

Honduran milk snakes become sexually mature at 18 months. The females are [oviparous](#), laying an average of 3-18 eggs per [clutch](#) in early June. The eggs [incubate](#) for approximately two months, and hatch in August or September. The hatchlings are 8 inches long and darker in color than their parents when they emerge from the eggs.

In captivity

Honduran milk snakes adapt well to captivity due to their relative ease of care and docile nature, and their large size and brilliant colors make them impressive and attractive pets.^[5] Like all king snakes and milk snakes, they must be housed alone, apart from the breeding season, because they are [cannibalistic](#).^[5]