

Lamprophiidae



Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Anamalia
Phylum:	Cordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Squamata
Suborder:	Serpentes
Infraorder	Alethinophidia
Family	Lamprophiida

Subfamilies

- [Lamprophiinae](#)
- [Atractaspidinae](#)
- [Psammophiinae](#)
- [Prosymninae](#)
- [Pseudaspidinae](#)
- [Pseudoxyrhopiinae](#)
- [Cyclorinae](#)

The **Lamprophiidae** are a [family](#) of [snakes](#)^[1] found mostly in [Africa](#), but also in parts of southern [Europe](#) and western [Asia](#).^[2] A few species reach southeastern Asia. There are 314 species as of May 2018.^[3]

Biology^[edit]

Lamprophiids are a very diverse group of snakes. Many are terrestrial but some are fossorial (e.g. [Amblyodipsas](#)), arboreal (e.g. [Langaha](#)), or semi-aquatic (e.g. [Lycodonomorphus](#)). Some are fast-moving (e.g. [Psammophis](#)) whereas others are slow (e.g. [Duberia](#)). They are found in deserts, grasslands, temperate and tropical forests, steppes and mountains. Together they feed on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. Some species use constriction to subdue their prey (e.g. [Boaedon](#)), whereas others are highly venomous and dangerous to humans (e.g. [Atractaspis](#)). Tooth morphology within Lamprophiidae is probably more variable than within any other snake family. Most species are [oviparous](#).

Classification^[edit]

Most lamprophiids were historically considered to be members of the [subfamily](#) Lamprophiinae in the family [Colubridae](#). The following classification follows Pyron et al., 2010^[2], whose finding that lamprophiids are more closely related to [elapids](#) has been repeated by several other studies.^{[4][5][6][7]} Together these two groups are sometimes referred to as the Elapoidea. In fact, some studies have found that [Elapidae](#) is nested within Lamprophiidae^{[6][7]}, a finding that, if confirmed, will likely necessitate taxonomic changes to restore [monophyly](#) within the Elapoidea.

List of subfamilies and genera^[edit]



A [psammophiine](#), *Malpolon monspessulanus*



A pseudaspidine, *Pseudaspis cana*



A pseudoxyrhopiine, *Leioheterodon madagascariensis*

- *Incertae sedis*^[1]
 - *Buroma* Ziegler, Vences, Glaw & Böhme, 1997
 - *Psammodynastes* Günther, 1858
- *Cyclorinae* Weinell and Brown, 2017
 - *Cyclocorus* Duméril & Bibron, 1853
 - *Hologerrhum* Günther, 1858
 - *Montaspis* Bourquin, 1991
 - *Oxyrhabdium* Boulenger, 1893
- *Aparallactinae* Bourgeois, 1968^{[1][8]} (sometimes considered part of *Atractaspidinae*)
 - *Amblyodipsas* W. Peters, 1857
 - *Aparallactus* A. Smith, 1849
 - *Brachyophis* Mocquard, 1888
 - *Chilorhinophis* F. Werner, 1907
 - *Hypoptophis* Boulenger, 1908
 - *Macrelaps* Boulenger, 1896
 - *Micrelaps* Boettger, 1880
 - *Polemon* Jan, 1858
 - *Xenocalamus* Günther, 1868
- *Atractaspidinae* Günther, 1858^{[1][8]}
 - *Atractaspis* A. Smith, 1849
 - *Homoroselaps* Jan, 1858
- *Lamprophiinae* Fitzinger, 1843^{[1][8]}
 - *Boaedon* A.M.C. Duméril, Bibron & A.H.A. Duméril, 1854
 - *Bothrolycus* Günther, 1874
 - *Bothrophthalmus* W. Peters, 1863
 - *Chamaelycus* Boulenger, 1919
 - *Dendrolycus* Laurent, 1956
 - *Gonionotophis* Boulenger, 1893

- [Hormonotus](#) [Hallowell](#), 1857
- [Inyoka](#) [Kelly](#), [Branch](#), [Broadley](#), [Barker](#) & [Villet](#), 2011
- [Lamprophis](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1843
- [Lycodonomorphus](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1843
- [Lycophidion](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1843
- [Pseudoboodon](#) [Peracca](#), 1897
- [Prosymninae](#) [Kelly](#), [Barker](#), [Villet](#) & [Broadley](#), 2009^{[1][8]}
 - [Prosymna](#) [Gray](#), 1849
- [Psammophiinae](#) [Dowling](#), 1967^{[1][8]}
 - [Dipsina](#) [Jan](#), 1862
 - [Hemirhagerrhis](#) [Boettger](#), 1893
 - [Malpolon](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1826
 - [Mimophis](#) [Günther](#), 1868
 - [Psammophis](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1826
 - [Psammophylax](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1843
 - [Rhagerhis](#) [W. Peters](#), 1862
 - [Rhamphiophis](#) [W. Peters](#), 1854
- [Pseudaspidinae](#) [Cope](#), 1893^{[1][8]}
 - [Pseudaspis](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1843
 - [Pythonodipsas](#) [Günther](#), 1868
- [Pseudoxyrhopiinae](#) [Dowling](#), 1975^{[1][8]}
 - [Alluaudina](#) [Mocquard](#), 1894
 - [Amplorhinus](#) [A. Smith](#), 1847
 - [Brygophis](#) [Domergue](#) & [Bour](#), 1989
 - [Compsophis](#) [Mocquard](#), 1894
 - [Ditypophis](#) [Günther](#), 1881
 - [Dromicodryas](#) [Boulenger](#), 1893
 - [Duberria](#) [Fitzinger](#), 1826
 - [Elapotinus](#) [Jan](#), 1862
 - [Heteroliodon](#) [Boettger](#), 1913
 - [Ithycyphus](#) [Günther](#), 1873
 - [Langaha](#) [Bonnaterre](#), 1790
 - [Leioheterodon](#) [Boulenger](#), 1893
 - [Liophidium](#) [Boulenger](#), 1896
 - [Liopholidophis](#) [Mocquard](#), 1904
 - [Lycodryas](#) [Günther](#), 1879
 - [Madagascarophis](#) [Mertens](#), 1952
 - [Micropisthodon](#) [Mocquard](#), 1894
 - [Pararhadinaea](#) [Boettger](#), 1898
 - [Parastenophis](#) [Nagy](#), [Glaw](#) & [Vences](#), 2010
 - [Phisalixella](#) [Nagy](#), [Glaw](#) & [Vences](#), 2010
 - [Pseudoxyrhopus](#) [Günther](#), 1881
 - [Thamnosophis](#) [Jan](#), 1863