

Ovophis okinavensis



Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Anamalia
Phylum:	Cordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Squamata
Suborder:	Serpentes
Family:	Viperidae
Genus:	Ovophis
Species:	O.Okinavensis

Binomial Name

Ovophis okinavensis
([Boulenger](#), 1892)

Synonyms

- *Trimeresurus okinavensis* Boulenger, 1892
- *Lachesis okinavensis* – Boulenger, 1896
- *Ovophis okinavensis* – Burger, 1981^[1]

Common names: *Hime habu*, *Okinawa pitviper*,^[2]

Ovophis okinavensis is a [venomous pitviper species](#) found in the [Ryukyu Islands](#) of [Japan](#). No [subspecies](#) are currently recognized.^[3]

Description

Adults are usually 30 to 80 cm (11¼–31½ inches) long. Body usually pale greenish-brown, or yellowish-olive (sometimes pale brown), with alternating, darker brownish or greenish dorsal blotches, each bordered with yellowish scales. Head large, triangular, distinct from neck, narrow dark postocular stripe.^[4]

Scalation includes: 23 or 21 rows of [dorsal scales](#) at midbody; 125–135 [ventral scales](#); 36–55 paired [subcaudal scales](#); and 8 (sometimes 7 or 9) [supralabial scales](#).^[2]

The color pattern consists of a gray ground color overlaid with a series of dark gray or grayish-black crossbands. A ventrolateral pattern of black spots against a gray-white background is also present.^[4]

Common names

Hime habu (ヒメハブ), *Okinawa pitviper*,^[2] *Okinawa habu* (This name usually refers to Hon habu or simply Habu: [Trimeresurus flavoviridis](#)),^[5] *kufah*.^[4] This snake is sometimes referred to as *Niibuyaa* (ニブヤー) by Okinawan people. Mamushi (only in [Amami](#) dialect. Mamushi is common name for [Gloydius blomhoffii](#)).

Geographic range

Found in the [Ryukyu Islands](#) of [Japan](#), including [Okinawa](#) and the [Amami Islands](#). The [type locality](#) given is "Okinawa."^[1]

Habitat

Occurs in various [habitats](#), including open [woodland](#), [forests](#), [mountains](#), [fields](#), in [farming](#) areas with nearby [streams](#), [ponds](#), and other [water sources](#). It can also be found in human habitations^[4]

Feeding

Hunts for [rodents](#) and other [vertebrates](#) in open areas, especially in [sugar cane](#) fields and, sometimes near human habitations.^[4]

Reproduction

Both [oviparous](#) and [ovoviviparous](#). Depending on environmental condition, females will either deposit their eggs, or retain them to incubate internally and give birth later to live young.^[4]

Venom

The [venom](#) of *Ovophis okinavensis*, like that of most [vipers](#), is mainly [hemotoxin](#) with [cytotoxicity](#) factors. People are bitten when they step on this sluggish snake at night, or when tending crops by day. Although venom from this snake is not life-threatening usually, people still should seek medical attention promptly if they are bitten. Because of its relatively weak venom, antivenom is not produced.