

The Mosshide Viper, so named because of the dark green scales along its body, is a semi aquatic, highly venomous snake that lives in and along the lakes, rivers and streams of Strokera. Although extremely venomous and a capable striker the Mosshide is considered a shy and reclusive snake often going out of its way to avoid contact with people.

Description

The Mosshide Viper is covered in dark green scales along the length of its body though the belly scales tend to be of a lighter shade of green than those on the back. A full grown adult snake averages approximately 1.8 metres (5.9 ft) in total length, although larger specimens can reach total lengths of 2.5 metres (8.2 ft) while its fangs are between 3.5 and 6.2 mm long. The eye is large and yellow and has a nictitating membrane allowing the snake to see quite effectively underwater.

Diet

The Mosshide Viper subsists on a diet of fish and small amphibians which it actively hunts. When it finds a prey item it will strike the victim five or six times in rapid succession injecting its venom deep into its body. The venom is fast acting with the prey item usually dying within ten to fifteen seconds of being bitten.

Reproduction

The Mosshide Viper mates once a year and can lay between eight and twenty four eggs depending on the availability of food. The eggs are laid in a burrow whose entrance is below the water line. The hatchlings emerge from their eggs after two months fully formed with fangs and venom glands ready to hunt.

Venom

The average quantity of venom delivered by this species is 44 mg and the maximum dose recorded is 110 mg and seems to be specifically tailored to kill its intended prey of fish or amphibians as quickly as possible. It acts by first disabling the prey items nervous system rendering it incapable of escape before going to work on the flesh. It slowly breaks down prey items flesh aiding the snake in digestion. It is unknown at this time what effect it would have on a person as there are currently no documented cases of someone being bitten.