

Enhydina (sea snake)

Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Reptilia

Order : Squamata

Family : Elapidae

Genus : *Hydrophis*

Species : *schistosus*



For further details, [link](#)

Characteristics :

- *Hydrophis schistosus*, commonly known as the beaked sea snake, hook-nosed sea snake, common sea snake, or the Valakadeyan sea snake, is a highly venomous species of sea snake common throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific.
- **Appearance:** Has a stout, sturdy body with a narrow, elongated head that tapers to a beak-like or hook-shaped snout.
- **Color:** Typically grey, olive, or green with a lighter belly, often featuring dark crossbands or blotches along its length.
- **Size:** Adults usually range from 1 to 1.5 meters (3.3 to 5 feet) long.
- **Tail:** Possesses a laterally flattened, paddle-shaped tail to aid in swimming.

Habit and Habitat :

- **Location:** Found in the coastal waters, estuaries, and river mouths of the Indo-Pacific region, from the Persian Gulf to Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
- **Behaviour:** Prefers shallow, murky waters, river mouths, and mangrove swamps. They can also be found in deeper waters but often return to these shallow areas.
- **Activity:** They are active hunters, and while they can tolerate turbid waters, they are often found aggregated in calm, muddy areas during the monsoon season.

Interesting Facts

- **Potent Venom:** The Beaked Sea Snake possesses one of the most potent neurotoxic venoms among all sea snakes, which can cause respiratory failure in humans. The venom of this species is made up of highly potent neurotoxins and myotoxins. This widespread species is responsible for the vast majority of deaths from sea snake bites (up to 90% of all sea snake bites).
- **Risk to Fishermen:** Fishermen are at the highest risk of bites, particularly when handling nets in shallow water.
- **Aggression:** While not inherently aggressive, they will bite in self-defence when surprised or threatened.
- **Diet:** Primarily feeds on fish, such as catfish and pufferfish, and crustaceans like shrimp.
- **Elusive Nature:** They are secretive animals and spend time hiding in crevices or under rocks during the day.