

Eryx Johnil (send boa)

Classification

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Reptilia

Order : Squamata

Family : Boidae

Genus : *Eryx*

Species : *johnil*



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics:

- The Red Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*) is a non-venomous, nocturnal, and burrowing snake native to the Indian subcontinent that is characterized by its thick-set, cylindrical body and unusually rounded tail, giving it the common name "Two-headed Snake".
- **Appearance:** It is characterized by a thick, cylindrical body, a small, wedge-shaped head, and a short, rounded tail that resembles a second head, earning it the nickname "Two-headed Snake".
- **Coloration:** The snake's colour varies, but it is typically reddish-brown or dull yellow-tan with darker markings, though some can be blackish.
- **Size:** It is the largest of the sand boas, with an average length of about 75 cm (2.5 ft), though it can reach up to 91 cm (3 ft).
- **Scales:** Its body is covered in small, keeled, and shiny scales.

Habits

- **Nocturnal:** Red Sand Boas are active primarily at night.
- **Burrowing:** They are excellent burrowers, spending most of their time underground.

- **Diet:** They are carnivorous, feeding on small rodents, lizards, and other small snakes by constricting them.
- **Reproduction:** Red Sand Boas are ovoviviparous, meaning they lay eggs that hatch inside the mother's body, and the young are born live.

Habitat

- **Location:** They are found across the Indian subcontinent, including India (except for the northeast states and islands), Pakistan, and Iran.
- **Environment:** Their preferred habitats are sandy or rocky areas, dry scrublands, and deserts.

Interesting Facts

- **"Two-headed Snake":** Their most distinctive feature is the blunt, rounded tail that makes them appear to have two heads, a trait sometimes used in snake charming.
- **IUCN Status:** The Red Sand Boa is listed as Near Threatened due to threats like hunting for the pet trade and for its skin.
- **Illegal Trade:** They are highly sought after in illegal domestic markets in India, driven by superstitions associating them with good luck and supernatural powers.
- **Ecological Role:** As predators of rodents and other pests, they play a significant role in maintaining ecological balance and are sometimes referred to as "friends of farmers".
- **Non-venomous:** Despite their intimidating appearance, Red Sand Boas are non-venomous and docile, preferring to hide their heads under their coils when threatened.