

What is Salazar Pit Viper?

July 10, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



What are Pit Vipers?

- Pit viper is **any species of viper** (a family of **venomous snakes**) that has, in addition to two movable fangs, **a heat-sensitive pit organ between each eye and nostril**.
- The pit organ is what **allows them to sense the infrared thermal radiation** (heat) **emitted by their prey** in the dark.
- **Habitat:** They are found in a variety of habitats, including deserts, forests, grasslands, and wetlands. They may be terrestrial, arboreal, or aquatic.
- **Distribution:**
 - They are **most commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions**, but some species can also be found in temperate regions.
 - They are found on **every continent except Antarctica**, with the **majority** of species found **in Asia and the Americas**.
- **Some species lay eggs; others produce live young.**

Key Facts about Salazar Pit Viper:

- It is a **species of pit viper** first identified in **Arunachal Pradesh** in 2019.
 - The snake, which is **nocturnal**, demonstrates a unique **orange-to-reddish stripe**, present **on the head and body in males**.
 - **Scientific Name: Trimeresurus salazar**
 - Members of the genus **Trimeresurus** are charismatic venomous snakes, with **morphologically** as well as **ecologically diverse species**.
 - They are distributed across **east and southeast Asia**. At least 48 nominate species are known, of which **at least 15 occur in India**.
 - Most species are **typically green** in color, but **some also have yellow, black, orange, red, or gold markings**.
 - Their diet includes a variety of animals, including lizards, amphibians, birds, rodents, and other small mammals.
 - Trimeresurus snakes are **morphologically cryptic**, which makes it **difficult to distinguish them** in the field.
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Q1: What is infrared radiation?

Infrared radiation (IR), or infrared light, is a type of radiant energy that's invisible to human eyes but that we can feel as heat. All objects in the universe emit some level of IR radiation, but two of the most obvious sources are the sun and fire. Infrared waves are longer than visible light waves but shorter than radio waves.

Source: Salazar Pit Viper, the real-life Harry Potter snake, found in Assam's Kaziranga National Park

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/salazar-pit-viper/>

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