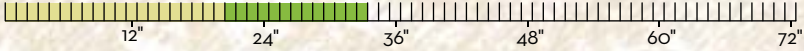
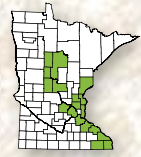


EASTERN HOG-NOSED SNAKE

(*Heterodon platirhinos*)



- Status:** Not listed, Species in Greatest Conservation Need
- Size:** 20 - 33 inches
- Active season:** Late April through October
- Scales:** Keeled, divided anal plate
- Description:** Medium-sized, stout-bodied snake with a sharply pointed and slightly upturned nose. Dorsal coloration can range from yellow brown to gray to olive, with dark brown blotches. Some adults have been observed with minimal to no dorsal pattern. Two dark spots occur on the neck, and resemble “eyespot” when the snake flattens its head. The belly is mottled yellow to mottled gray. In hatchlings, the ventral surface may be black, but the undersides of the neck and tail are yellow or white.
- Diet:** Primarily toads, other amphibians, arthropods
- Habitat:** Prefer sandy areas in river floodplains, sand prairies, savannas and open woodlands. Spend most of their time underground in self-excavated burrows. They overwinter below the frost line in mammal or self-dug burrows.
- Hunting:** Active forager
- Reproduction:** Egg layer, clutch size is 4 - 63 eggs, with an average of 23
- Other name(s):** Blow Snake, Puff Adder, Cobra
- Notes:** If threatened, this snake will flatten its head and raise it like a Cobra, hissing and striking repeatedly. It will also “play dead” by rolling on its back, regurgitating food, and excreting feces. The Eastern Hog-nosed is often confused with the Plains Hog-nosed; however, the Eastern has a less upturned nose and the underside of the tail is yellow.



Barney Oldfield

Adult Eastern Hog-nosed Snake. Note dark "eye spots" on neck.



MNDNR-Erica Hoaglund

Adult Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (solid pattern variation).



MNDNR-Liz Harper

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake playing dead. Note tail section below vent is not black, like the Plains Hog-nosed Snake.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 2010. [Snakes and Lizards of Minnesota](#).
Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, Minnesota. 67 pp.