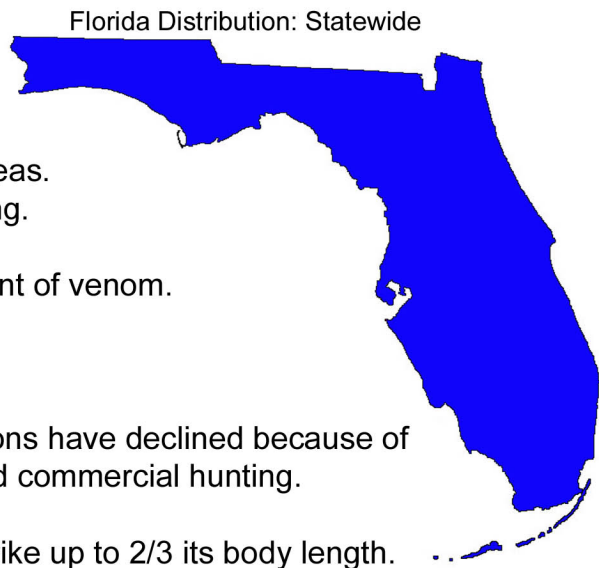


# Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*)

- Florida's largest venomous snake.  
(average adult length: 3-6 ft; the record is 8 ft)
- Found throughout Florida in pinelands, scrub, coastal barrier islands and sometimes urban areas.
- Like all pit vipers, females give birth to live young.
- Newborns come equipped with a full complement of venom.
- Prey on rodents, rabbits and other mammals.
- Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake populations have declined because of habitat loss, indiscriminate killing by people, and commercial hunting.
- **DO NOT APPROACH THIS SNAKE:** it can strike up to 2/3 its body length.



## Appearance

Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes are easily identified by the obvious rows of diamonds that run along their backs. These diamonds are black with beige-colored borders and brown centers. They have large, chunky heads with a dark stripe running through each eye to the corner of the mouth. Their tails end in rattles that make a loud buzzing sound when the snake feels threatened. Like the Timber Rattlesnake, the scales are strongly keeled, giving Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes a rough appearance. Young look similar to adults.



Adult Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes



Keeled scales



Smooth scales