

Pygmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius*)

- Smallest venomous snake in Florida (average adult length is 1-2 feet).
- They typically inhabit pine flatwoods, oak scrub, open pinelands and palm hammocks but may also be found in urban areas like suburban yards and golf courses.
- In Florida, it is one of the most commonly encountered venomous snakes.
- Pygmy Rattlesnakes are aggressive: they will often hold their ground if approached and will strike if they feel threatened.
- Feed mainly on lizards and frogs.
- Like all members of the viper family, females give birth to live young.

Florida Distribution: Statewide except the Keys



Appearance

Pygmy Rattlesnakes are small yet stout snakes. They are grey in color with dark blotches on their sides and backs. The dark blotches in the middle of their backs are more prominent and run along the lengths of their bodies. Usually a series of reddish-brown marks can be seen between the blotches on the back, like a broken line running down the snake's back. Pygmy Rattlesnakes have a dark band through each eye to the rear of the jaw. Juveniles are similar to adults in appearance but have a yellow or yellowish-green tail tip.

The rattle on the tip of the tail of this species is so small that it is barely audible as a faint buzz, even when the snake is vibrating it.



Adult Pygmy Rattlesnake



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