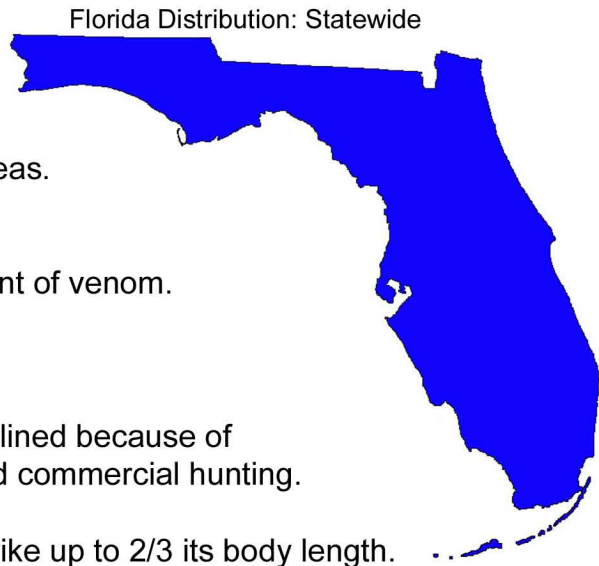


Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

- 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 vipers, females give birth to live young.
- Newborns come equipped with a full complement of venom.
- Prey on rodents, rabbits and other mammals.
- Diamondback 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.

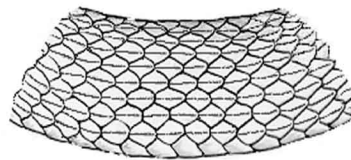


Appearance

Diamondbacks 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. Diamondbacks 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 diamondbacks a rough appearance. The young look similar to adults.



Adults



Keeled scales



Smooth scales