



Carphophis amoenus
Family Colubridae
Subfamily Xenodontidae

- Small snakes adapted for fossorial life
- Reduced eyes with a narrow head
- Tail short and sharply pointed
- Dorsal scales smooth
- Anal plate divided
- Feed on earthworms and other invertebrates
- Oviparous, lay eggs in the summer



Coluber constrictor

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Colubrinae

- Long and slender
- Rounded in cross-section (*Elaphe obsoleta* like a loaf of bread in cross-section)
- Scales smooth (scales in *Elaphe obsoleta* are keeled)
- Anal plate divided
- Usually 7 upper labial scales
- Chin and underside of neck are yellowish-white (*Elaphe obsoleta* has pure white)
- Oviparous



Diadophis punctatus
Family Colubridae
Subfamily Xenodontinae

- Small and slender
- Scales smooth and glossy
- Nasal plate divided
- Anal plate divided
- Enlarged rear teeth
- Mildly poisonous
- Yellow or orange neckband (when alive)
- Bright yellow or orange venter (when alive)



Heterodon platyrhinos

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Xenodontinae

- Uprturned hard snout (hognose)
- Rostral scale turned upward and keeled
- Stocky body
- Scales keeled
- Anal plate divided
- Lacks large teeth in the front of the mouth, but has enlarged teeth at the rear of the jaw
- Specialist feeder on toads and frogs
- Oviparous

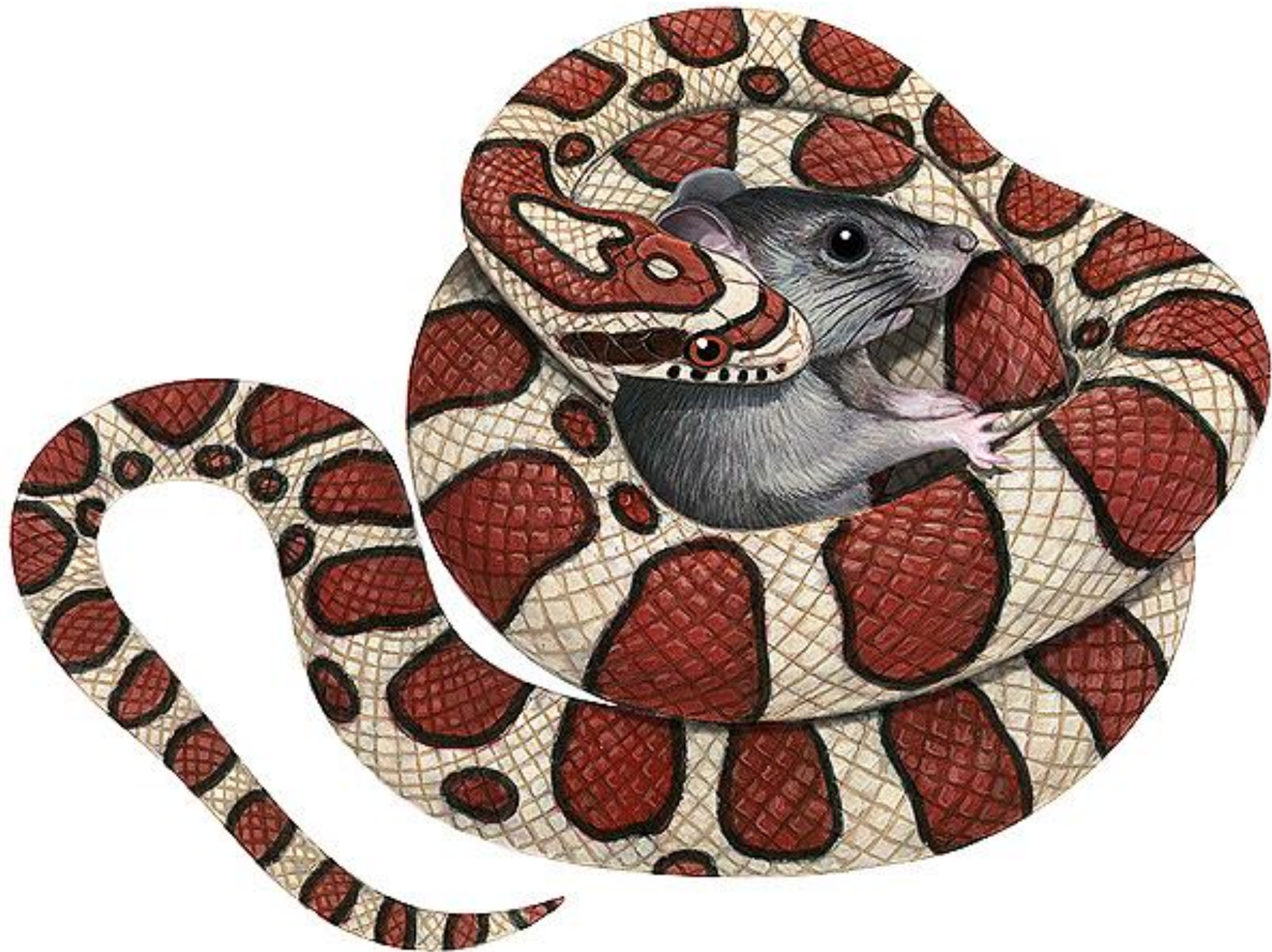


Elaphe obsoleta (new name *Pantherophis obsoletus*)

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Colubrinae

- Rough scales with keels (*Coluber constrictor* has smooth scales)
- Heavier body than *Coluber constrictor*
- Shaped like loaf of bread in cross section
- Anal plate divided
- 8 upper labial scales
- Solid black in color, pure white chin
- Oviparous



Lampropeltis triangulum

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Colubrinae

- Smooth scales
- Usually 21 dorsal scales rows
- Dorsal scales smooth
- Anal plate NOT divided
- Sometimes with a mark on top of the head that looks like a triangle or a “moon-like” shape.
- Oviparous
- Eat mice around barns



Nerodia sipedon
Family Colubridae
Subfamily Natricinae

- Water snake
- Relatively heavy-bodied with rough keeled scales
- Does NOT have the triangular head characteristic of *Agkistrodon contortrix*
- Anal plate divided
- Pattern variable, generally brown with bands across body (when alive)
- They live in lakes, swamps, ponds
- Fish and frog eaters
- Ovoviviparous



TODD PIERSON 20

Storeria dekayi

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Natricinae

- Small and slender
- Scales are keeled
- Usually 17 dorsal scale rows
- Anal plate divided
- 7 upper labial scales
- 1 preocular scale
- Dorsum dull brown or tan
- Venter greenish to grayish with
- Dark spot on neck
- Ovoviviparous



Storeria occipitomaculata

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Natricinae

- Scales keeled
- Anal plate divided
- 15 dorsal scale rows
- 6 upper labial scales
- 2 preocular scales
- Bright red venter
- Light spots in occipital region behind head



Opheodrys vernalis
Family Colubridae
Subfamily Colubrinae

- No keels on scales
- 17 dorsal scale rows
- Anal plate divided
- Solid green in color when alive (looks bluish in the preserved specimens)
- Eats insects and other invertebrates
- Oviparous, lays eggs during the summer
- Mostly east of the CT river



Thamnophis sauritus

Family Colubridae

Subfamily Natricinae

- Long and slender
- Tail very long in proportion to the rest of the body
- 7 upper labial scales
- Scales keeled
- Anal plate NOT divided
- Three distinct yellow stripes on dark background
- the most aquatic of the garter snakes (found around streams, swamps, bogs and the edges of ponds)
- Eats mainly fish
- Ovoviviparous



TODD PIERSON 20

Thamnophis sirtalis
Family Colubridae
Subfamily Natricinae

- Compared with *T. sauritus* the tail is shorter in proportion to body
- Scales keeled
- Anal plate NOT divided
- 7 upper labial scales
- Less distinct stripes than *T. sauritus*
- Can be spotted or striped
- Is the most abundant snake in CT
- Less aquatic than *T. sauritus*
- Eats fish, frogs, toads, salamanders and invertebrates
- Viviparous



Agkistrodon contortrix

Family Viperidae

Subfamily Crotalinae

- Triangular head shape
- Heat-sensing pit
- Stocky body
- Tail pointed without rattle
- Scales weakly keeled
- Anal plate NOT divided
- Venomous
- Ovoviviparous



Crotalus horridus
Family Viperidae
Subfamily Crotalinae

- Triangular head shape
- Heat-sensing pit
- Stocky body
- Rattle present
- Scales distinctly keeled
- Area between the eyes with small scales
- Venomous (fatal)
- Viviparous
- The most endangered snake in CT