



## THE TEMPERAMENTAL ONE

### ROUGH-SCALED SNAKE

The scales of this species are keeled. This gives the typical 'rough' appearance. The rough-scaled snakes can bear a superficial resemblance to the keelback and mistaking the two could be a costly mix-up. The rough-scaled snake is fast and can be quite aggressive when disturbed. Individuals can bite repeatedly without any warning, injecting a neurotoxic venom.

Rough-scaled snakes can control the amount of venom injected under different circumstances. Evidence suggests that

when hunting, the rough-scaled snake injects more venom into its prey than it does when it strikes in defence.

There are two populations of rough-scaled snakes some 1000 kilometres apart. One is on the central coast of New South Wales to south-east Queensland and the other in the Wet Tropics between Tully and Carbine Tableland.



A yellow-footed Antechinus, *Antechinus flavipes*, is just the right sized meal for a rough-scaled snake.