

## SINALOAN MILK SNAKE

updated March 2017



<b>Range</b>	Southwest Sonora, Sinaloa, southwest Chihuahua (Mexico)
<b>Habitat</b>	Rocky and semi-arid dry lands
<b>Diet (wild)</b>	Rodents, small snakes, lizards and occasional small birds and other snakes
<b>Diet (captivity)</b>	Dead mice
<b>Description</b>	Length: 48 inches. A slim snake. Easily distinguished from other subspecies by the very broad bands of red which are wider than on most other subspecies. The head is black with a thin yellowish or cream-colored band just behind the eyes across the top of the head. The belly is yellowish or creamy white. Non-venomous.
<b>Lifespan</b>	10–15 years
<b>Reproduction</b>	The female lays 5–15 eggs under logs, rocks, or vegetation. The eggs hatch after about 60 days. The young are brightly colored at birth, though color dulls as they mature, which takes 3–4 years. They mate in May and June.
<b>Behavior</b>	Milk snakes are often nocturnal and stay in their desert burrows during the heat of the day. Very secretive, they are often found under rocks or in hollow logs or stumps and emerge at night. The brightly banded color of the non-venomous Sinaloan milk snake may confuse predators into thinking that they are venomous coral snakes. This type of camouflage is called mimicry.
<b>Our animals</b>	1 undetermined sex. Born: 01/2004
<b>Cool stuff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mnemonic “Red touch yellow, kill a fellow. Red touch black, friend to Jack” (and other variations) only reliably applies only to coral snakes native to North America. Venomous coral snakes found in other parts of the world can have red bands touching black bands.</li> <li>• Milk snakes were so named because of a false belief that they sucked milk from cows. In truth, barns are excellent places to hunt for rodents, and milk snakes extremely important in limiting pest populations.</li> <li>• Eastern milk snakes (<i>L. t. triangulum</i>), found in Michigan, typically have a skin pattern of reddish or brown blotches on a gray or tan background color that camouflages well in their deciduous forest habitat. Since coral snakes are not native to Michigan, the eastern sub-species hasn't evolved the mimicry camouflage that southwestern populations have.</li> </ul>

Phylum  
ChordataClass  
ReptiliaOrder  
SquamataFamily  
ColubridaeGenus  
Lampropeltisspecies  
*T. triangulum sinaloae*