

Rough Green Snake

Opheodrys aestivus



These slender **emerald** snakes are common residents of the southeast. Because they are so well camouflaged, they are rarely seen. Look for them in vine thickets on warm days in the early spring. **Green snakes** are excellent climbers and spend most of their lives in trees or bushes. They eat a variety of pesky insects and spiders which they capture and swallow alive.



Photo by David Scott



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Green snakes are egg layers, depositing four to ten eggs in a rotten log in late spring or early summer. The seven- to eight-inch young hatch 60 to 70 days later.

Green snakes reach adult size (2½ - 3 feet) in 2 years. Like most of the snakes in this area, they are nonvenomous and pose no threat to humans.



This information is provided as a public service by the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Outreach Office. For more information, call Tony Mills at (803) 725-9725 or Lindy Nowak at (803) 725-0156.

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