

Rough-scaled snake or Clarence River snake.

(Tropidechis carinatus)

As any keeper of these snakes will tell you, they are nervous to the extreme. They trust nothing that seems strange or different and moving. So just as with humans when they suffer that complaint, it makes them dangerous to tangle with.

There are stories of them diving into water to attack people however, that i find very hard to believe because i have kept them and seen their extremes. If a snake heads towards somebody then **of course** it must be attacking. Nonsense! What people tend not to understand is that a snake must go somewhere.

If it makes a run for it because it has been startled, then it could easily head towards that which startled it. Once you, the startler stand still, the snake cannot remember you as the one that first scared it; and snakes do not hold grudges. See Tiger snake attack explained at www.snakeshow.net

With a snake of this species in a cage of a metre in length and an animal of about half that, there is no way i'd put my hand in with it; even if it were not hungry. Perhaps more than nine out of ten of this species of snake are just too nervous to handle.

However, i did own one of them that was quite trusting and could be handled like any other trusting snake. The particular specimen originated from around Brisbane and came to me from Rob McLeod. He mentioned before sending me these snakes that one of them seemed to be very quiet. It looked normal; it was a beautiful healthy specimen, just quiet and trusting. Its brethren however were true to there name *Tropidechis* they were all a bit troppo.

These snakes are very deadly and a bite should not be taken lightly even if they are usually, 'just a small snake'.

Tiger Snake antivenom is the treatment for their bites and it works but get a pressure bandage on as soon as possible after the bite; initial dose 3000 units. But don't try a bite just for the hell of it. I've heard that within minutes of a bite from one of these snakes you can get a headache like you've never before experienced.

Unless you are really keen to understand Rough-scaled snakes, just leave them alone. They are a very dangerous snake to play with.

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