

BOOKREVIEW

Snakes of the Arabian Gulf and Oman by Michael Gallagher. 2nd Edition, 1990. Pp. 1-16.
Published by Michael Gallagher, P.O. Box 668, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

By: Anton van Woerkom.

* * *

This is a colourful illustrated guide to the 21 species of land snake and 9 species of sea snake, inhabiting the eastern coastal part of the Arabian Peninsula. It is a brochure specially written for the inhabitants and visitors of this area. That there was a need for a guide like this is proved because the first edition was sold out in no time.

A great deal of attention is given to the prevention of snake bite and the recognition of the dangerous species. The part of the brochure that describes and depicts the species has a different back ground colour for four types of dangerousness: red or orange for 'dangerous', yellow for 'mildly toxic' and green for 'harmless'.

The species accounts give details about the habits, natural history, measurements, distribution and the Arabic name(s). The drawings and colour photos (37) are of good quality. The back cover gives guide lines for prevention and first aid.