

Northern Scarlet Snake

The related Scarlet Snake also has the unusual habit of eating eggs and is considered to be a mimic of Coral Snakes, venomous snakes which do not occur in New Jersey.

Northern Scarlet Snake (*Cemophora coccinea copei*) - PL.19

Identification: 14" - 32 1/4". The white underside of the Northern Scarlet Snake distinguishes it from the very similar Scarlet Kingsnake (not found in New Jersey). As in the Scarlet Kingsnake, the red and yellow rings of the Northern Scarlet Snake are separated by black. The snout is red and pointed. Older animals may have dark specks in the red and whitish areas, and overall may darken with age. Scales are smooth; anal plate is single.

Where to find them: In or near damp woodlands. This species burrows, so it is usually found in the ground or sheltering under rotting wood or other debris.

When to find them: Active April through September. Mostly nocturnal.

Range: Southern Region: all of Atlantic, southern Burlington and Ocean Counties. Locally in Cumberland, Camden, Gloucester, and Monmouth Counties.

Northern Scarlet Snake

(*Cemophora coccinea copei*) - text pg. 28



Key Features

- Red and yellowish rings separated by a thin black band.
- Red, pointed snout and plain white or yellow belly.
- Scales smooth.



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Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

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