

# Southern Ringneck Snake

## Southern Ringneck Snake - PL.13

*(Diadophis punctatus punctatus)*

**Identification:** 7" - 18". This snake is very similar in appearance to the Northern Ringneck Snake, but with two exceptions. First, the neck ring on the Southern Ringneck Snake is incomplete, with a dark mark cutting through it at the top. Second, the underside of the Southern Ringneck Snake is marked with a series of black half-moons running down the midline. Scales are smooth; anal plate is divided.

**Where to find them:** Occurs in much of the same habitat as the Northern Ringneck Snake, although it seems to have a greater fondness for moist environments. As in the Northern Ringneck Snake, it is typically found sheltering under woody or rocky debris. It is most active at night.

**When to find them:** Active April through September.

**Range:** All of Southern Region. Southern Monmouth County in Northern Region.

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### Key Features

- Small, slender, and dark snake.
- Yellow collar normally interrupted by dark pigment.
- Belly yellow with a central row of dark half-moon shaped spots.
- Scales smooth.



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2003



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

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>