

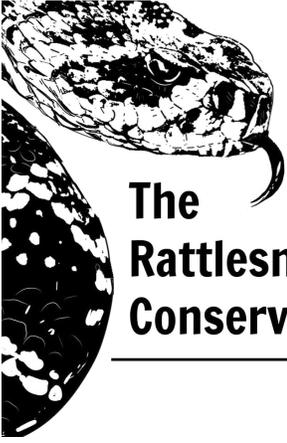
The Rattlesnake Conservancy

RATTLESNAKES

of the southeast
coloring book

An educator resource illustrated by Mike Van Valen
written and produced by The Rattlesnake Conservancy

www.savethebuzztails.org



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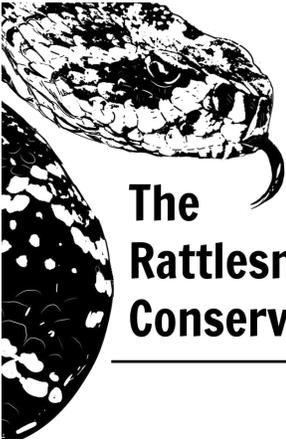
Eastern Diamondback

Crotalus adamanteus

The eastern diamondback is a large rattlesnake known for its diamond pattern with average adults reaching lengths between 36-72 inches! These impressive snakes can be found only within the lower coastal plain of the southeast. They are rare in North Carolina and no remaining populations are known in Louisiana. The eastern diamondback feeds on warm blooded prey that many consider to be pests, and can be found in a variety of upland habitats including pine flatwoods, longleaf pine and turkey oak, sand pine scrub areas, sandhills, coastal dunes, and barrier islands.

How to color: The eastern diamondback rattlesnake has a tan body with dark diamonds down its back that are lighter brown in the center and have cream colored borders. The large, thick head has a dark stripe through each eye with cream colored borders and cream colored vertical stripes on the snout. The diamond pattern usually fades to a brownish colored tail that ends in a tan colored rattle.





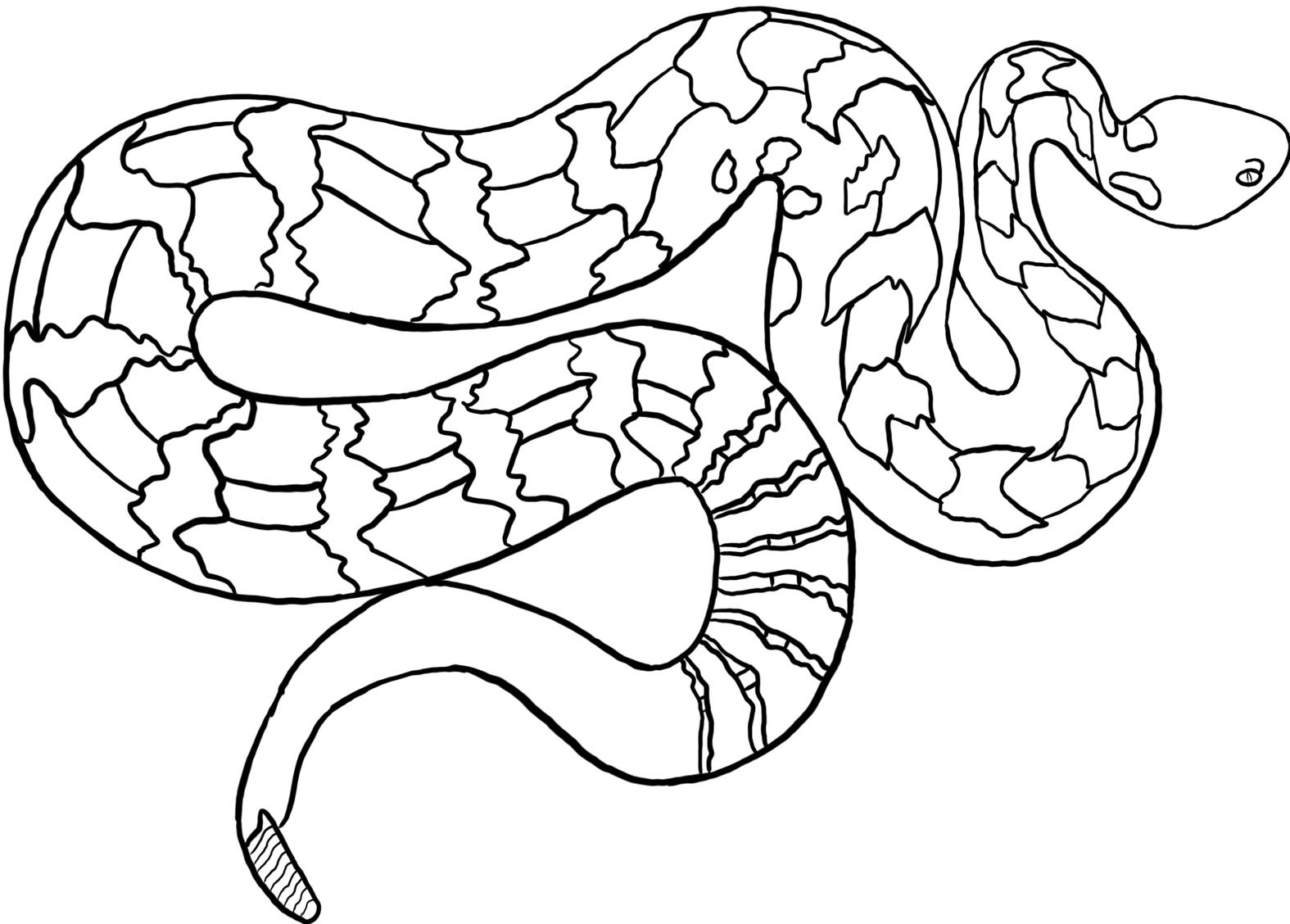
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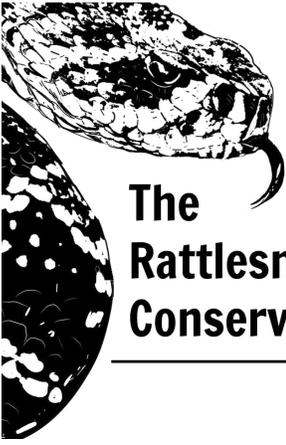
Canebrake / Timber

Crotalus horridus

The canebrake, or timber rattlesnake, is a large, thick-bodied snake with average adults reaching lengths between 36-60 inches! This snake ranges across the southeastern states except for Florida, where its distribution is limited to only the northern portion of the state. Its unique pattern provides the perfect camouflage to blend in with its surroundings. The canebrake rattlesnake can be found throughout its range in low, damp bottomlands like river beds, hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, swamps, and cane thickets.

How to color: The canebrake, or timber rattlesnake has a pinkish tan or gray colored body with a rust colored stripe down the center of its back. It has a unique pattern of black, chevron crossbands with a black tail that ends in a light colored rattle.





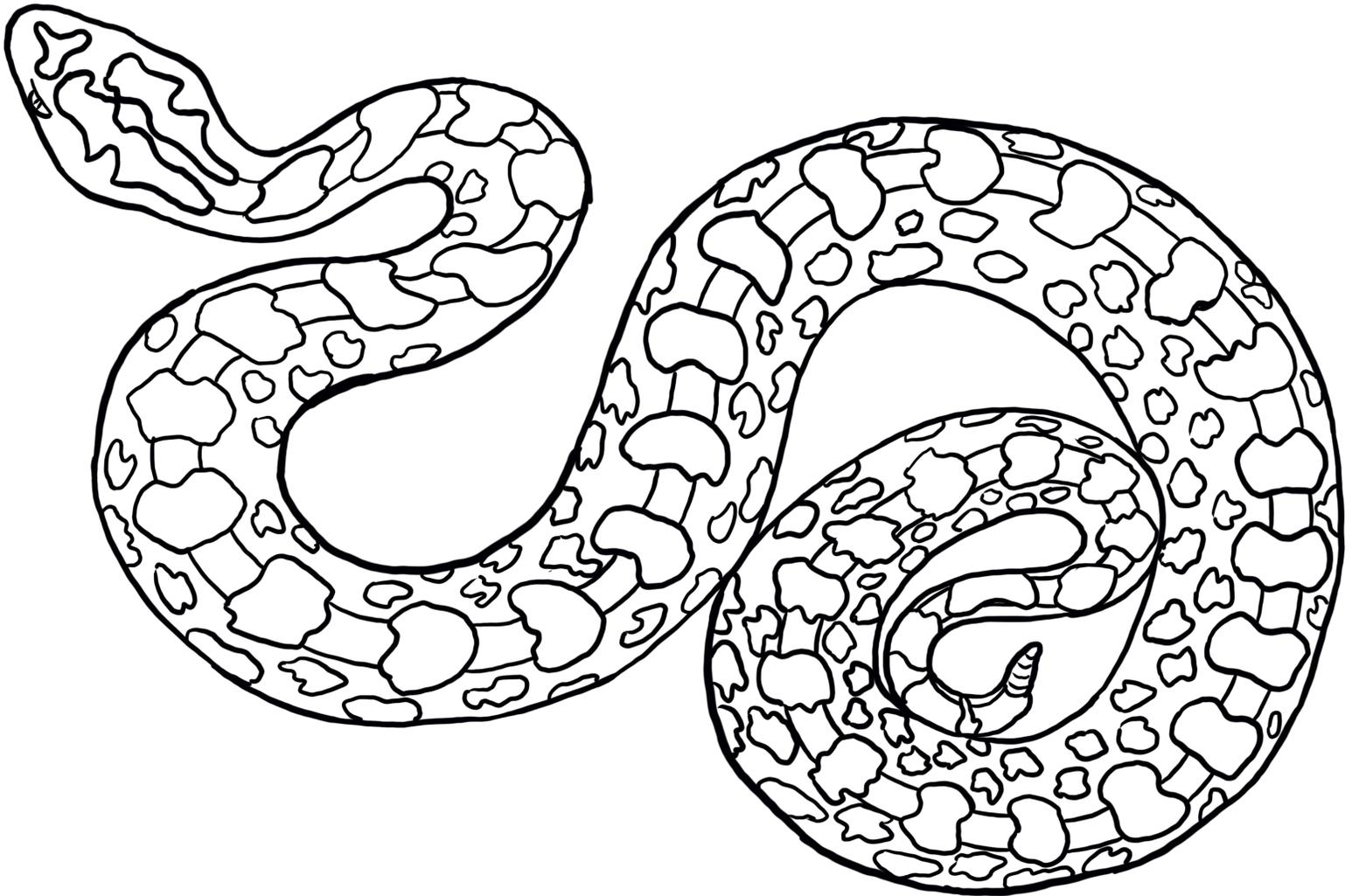
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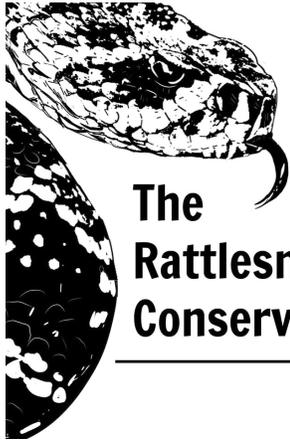
Dusky Pygmy

Sistrurus miliarius barbouri

The pygmy rattlesnake is the smallest species of rattlesnake in the southeast, with adults typically reaching lengths between 12-24 inches long. There are two subspecies of pygmy rattlesnake found in this region—the Carolina pygmy and the dusky pygmy. The dusky pygmy's range extends through southeastern Mississippi, central Alabama, and Georgia, but it is found primarily in Florida with the exception of the Florida Keys. The dusky pygmy rattlesnake can thrive in a wide variety of lowland habitat including pine flatwoods, prairies, freshwater marshes, cypress domes, and swamps. A protein discovered in the venom of the dusky pygmy rattlesnake was used to create the drug Eptifibatid , which helps prevent blood clots during heart attacks and other cardiovascular episodes!

How to color: The dusky pygmy rattlesnake is light to dark gray with darker, black colored blotches along the length of its body. It often has a brownish, rust colored stripe down the center of its back and dark stripes on the sides and top of the head.





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Carolina Pygmy

Sistrurus miliarius miliarius

The pygmy rattlesnake is the smallest species of rattlesnake in the southeast, with adults typically reaching lengths between 12-24 inches long. There are two subspecies of pygmy rattlesnake found in this region—the Carolina pygmy and the dusky pygmy. The Carolina pygmy's range extends through South Carolina, central and northern Georgia, and the eastern portion of North Carolina. The Carolina pygmy rattlesnake is found in much drier habitats than the dusky pygmy rattlesnake. This subspecies typically thrives in sandhills and xeric pine forests, and can even be found using gopher tortoise burrows as refuge!

How to color: The Carolina pygmy rattlesnake is light tan to gray or orangeish red with darker, black or brown colored blotches along the length of its body. It often has a brownish, rust colored stripe down the center of its back and dark stripes on the sides and top of the head.

