

SIDE-STRIPED PALM VIPER

Bothriechis lateralis

Peters, 1862



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Viperidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

UNCOMMON



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Slender-bodied viper with prehensile tail, reaching a total length of 1 m. Broad triangular head. Coloration is entirely bright green, sometimes becoming blue. Small yellow and black bands on sides of back and flanks, more or less visible.

Range: This species occurs in Central America and is found from Costa Rica to western Panama.

Habitat : Lower montane humid and cloud forests, rarely in plantations.

Behavior: The species is mostly arboreal and is often found in low vegetation near watercourses. Mostly active by day, feeds on lizards and rodents. Viviparous.

Status in the wild: The species has a relatively small range but remains locally common throughout. It's known to occur in protected areas.

In captivity: The species is commoner in captivity than most members of its genus but remains fairly rare. In Europe, it's currently kept in a single zoo and some private collections. Commoner in American zoos. Bred mostly by private breeders.