

SONORAN GOPHER SNAKE

Pituophis catenifer affinis

Hallowell, 1852



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Colubridae

7 other subspecies



NOT LISTED

RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Adults can grow to over 2 meters in length. Thick but long body, large triangular head with blunt nose. Pale brown to yellowish ground coloration with large brown blotches on back and small brown markings on flanks.

Range: This subspecies lives from west Texas to south California, south to Mexico. The species is found in south-west Canada, most west USA and north Mexico.

Habitat : Forests, deserts, grasslands, shrublands, in both mountains and plains.

Behavior: Mostly diurnal and solitary, mainly feeding on rodents, rarely on frogs. When threatened, will shake its tail to imitate the sound produced by rattlesnakes.

Status in the wild: The species has a very large range and hundreds of wild populations are known. It may face persecution and collecting for trade locally.

In captivity: The species is common in captivity in America. In Europe, it is commoner in private collections than in zoos. This subspecies is very rare outside the US and private collections, known from only a single zoo in Europe at the moment.