

What to do when bitten?

1

When you are bitten by a habu



2

Call for help



3

Go to a hospital



1 Stay calm. Make sure it is really a habu

Even if you cannot distinguish between different types of snakes, a habu bite will usually leave 2 marks (sometimes 1, 3, or 4). It will swell up within 5 minutes and will be extremely painful.

2 As soon as you find out it is a habu, call for help and be taken to a hospital.

Running will make the venom spread faster in your body. Walk slowly or be driven to a hospital.

3 If it is a long way to the hospital, tie the affected area loosely enough to be able to fit one finger.

Use cloth with some width, like a bandage or necktie, to tie an area closer to the heart than the bite. Tie just tight enough to slow the flow of blood. Loosen once every 15 minutes. Never use a thin thread to wrap the affected area tightly. Your blood will stop flowing and will make the situation worse.



Tie loosely enough to be able to fit one finger in between.

* Bring someone with you when working in an area where the nearest hospital is far away, such as in mountainous locations. In order to be safe, check whether your cellphone has reception.

*Do not take painkillers or alcohol to ease the pain.

For more information about Habu, please contact us.

◆ Okinawa Prefecture Department of Public Health and Medical care, and Hygienic and Pharmaceutical Affairs Division

TEL.098-866-2055

◆ Okinawa Prefecture Institute of Health and Environment

TEL.098-987-8223

Beware of Habu?



There are 24 types of snakes in Okinawa Prefecture - 8 of which are venomous. The only 4 snakes that are a serious threat to humans are Habu, Hime Habu, Sakishima Habu, and Taiwan Habu.



Habu color and patterns differ depending on the individual, region, and state of molting.



Habu Ecology

Habu Activity

Habuses are nocturnal. They hide in holes during the day and will become active once the sun begins to set.



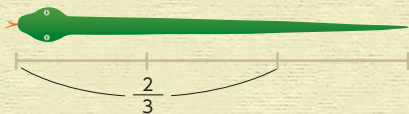
Where They Live



Habuses generally live in the woods or grasslands, but they can be found in small parks in the city. If there is a good hiding spot and food (i.e. mice), it is wise to assume that there is a habu nearby.

Habu Activity

Habuses will make an 'S' shape with their body before attacking. Then, they lunge and strike. They cannot jump. Their range of attack is about two-thirds of their entire body length. Keep out of that range to stay protected.



Habuses are great climbers and swimmers. Be careful when you climb trees, too.



Be Careful when You are in the Mountains

Only 5% of all habu attacks happen in mountains, but these areas tend to be further away from hospitals, delaying necessary treatment. Be extra wary when going into the mountains.

Harmful Venomous Snakes



Habu

Black ring-like pattern on yellow or white body. 130~240cm



Taiwan Habu

Resemble Sakishima Habu (Invasive Species). 80~130cm



Hime Habu

Black spots on gray or brown body. 40~80cm



Sakishima Habu

Black spots on brown body. 80~120cm

Pryer's Keelback Snake

Black body with white spots. 80~110cm



Venomous but
Not very harmful

Characteristics of Snakes

Found on Mainland Okinawa

Hyan Coral Snake

Orange and black vertical stripes with white horizontal stripes. They are docile and rarely bite. 40~55cm



Ryukyu Odd-Tooth Snake

Red and black stripes. 130~180cm



Non-Venomous Snakes



Beauty Rat Snake

A large snake brought in from Taiwan. Found in central Okinawan mainland. 180~270cm



Ryukyu Green Snake

Green back and yellow underside. 70~90cm

Amami Takachiho Snake

Brown back and yellow underside. 40~60cm



Brahminy Blind Snake

Its entire body is a glossy gray. They live underground and look just like worms. 10~20cm



★Length in description is average to maximum length.