

# Red on Yellow, Kill a Fellow,



**Coral Snake (Top Photo)**

A highly dangerous snake that is common in many areas but their habitats are secretive. Usually encountered in early morning and evening hours, coral snakes can be found in any environment.

Average length 24 inches, maximum length 47½ inches

The first color (starting with the head) on the coral snake is black. The venom is neurotoxic, paralyzing the nerves. Often handled with impunity by reckless persons. Usually hangs on while biting, injecting as much venom as possible. There is a high percentage of fatalities from the coral snake bite. Treatment should start as soon as possible.

About three species of coral snakes are found in the United States. All are small, brightly colored snakes. The venom is neurotoxic and attacks the nervous system. Coral snakes have small grooved fangs which are permanently erect. They usually hang on after biting. Coral snake antivenom is produced for these species in this country. The Arizona Coral snake (*Micruroides*) is found only in the Southwestern United States. The venom appears very toxic. The bites are very rare and there is no antivenom for this species.



**Scarlet King Snake (bottom photo)**

The Scarlet king snake is often called the "false coral" because of the similarity of many colors and patterns. Again, the first color on the Scarlet King Snake is red; the Coral Snake starts with black.

Average length 12 inches; maximum length 18 inches.

Notice the "red on black" as opposed to the Coral Snakes "red on yellow".