

KEY TO THE BLIND SNAKES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

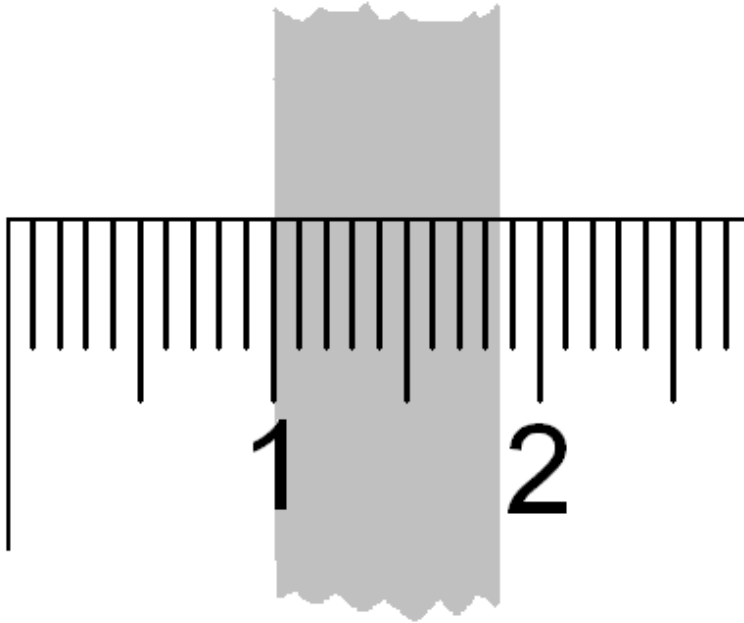
FAMILY TYPHLOPIDAE

(GENUS: *Anilius*)

(Recent taxonomic work has transferred all native Australian blind snakes, formerly in the genus *Ramphotylops*, into the genus *Anilius*)

1. Snout smooth, without a fingernail-like transverse ridge on the rostral scale; terminal spine on tail dark-coloured but surrounded by the pale belly colour; body robust (total length 28-35 times the body diameter; see opposite) *A. bicolor*
 Snout with a transverse, fingernail-like cutting edge across the front of the rostral; terminal spine on tail not conspicuously different in colour from surrounding scales; body slender (total length 45-80 times the body diameter) 2
2. Viewed from above the outline of the nostril area is angular and projecting, forming 'shoulders' on either side of the rostral scale 3
 Viewed from above the outline of the nostril area is slightly bulbous or smooth, following the curve of the snout 4
3. 20 midbody scale rows; nasal projections strong, sharply angular; body moderately slender (total length 45-70 times the body diameter) *A. bituberculatus*
 18 midbody scale rows; nasal projections weak, obtusely angular; body extremely slender (total length approx 80 times the body diameter) *A. margaretae*
4. Cutting edge on the snout very well-developed and runs on to the nasal scales as a continuous ridge *A. centralis*
 Cutting edge on the snout confined to the rostral scale 5
5. Snout with an obvious downward hook in profile; 18 midbody scale rows; body very slender (total length 65-80 times the body diameter) *A. 'grypus'*
 Snout with a cutting edge but no obvious 'hook'; 22 midbody scale rows; body moderately slender (total length 45-65 times the body diameter) *A. endoterus*

Body diameter is taken at approximately mid-body; the fore-body is often more slender than the rest and the posterior part may be full of eggs or fat stores. The measurement is best made using a clear plastic ruler. Round down.



In this case the diameter would be scored as 8 mm.



Measure body diameter and count mid-body scale rows about here

Anilius bicolor

Snout shape and rostral scale structure in South Australian blind snakes

(MBSR = mid-body scale rows)

