

Death Adder

Fastest Australian snake

- The death adder is known by the name Bingali in the local Wulgurukaba language.
- The death adder's skin is silvery grey, jagged with mottled colours that run the entire length of their body. It looks like the fallen leaves of Magnetic Island where they live.
- The death adder's body shape is not designed for fast-moving prey. Instead, they take super-fast strikes on their prey with potent venom.
- The death adder has a highly neurotoxic venom, causing prey to lose control of their muscles. This means they can't move
- With their head pressed flat against the ground or pushed up against the rock, they can detect the vibrations of skinks or small mammals.
- Vertical pupils in their eyes means they can judge distances accurately without having to move their heads.

The death adder wriggles the tip of its tail, called a caudal luring. This display is designed to mimic the movement of a small grub or worm in the leaf litter.



“They are very camouflaged. They blend in super-well with the leaf litter, and very well with the boulder rocks here”

DR CHRISTINA ZDENEK