

Spitting behaviour in the Chinese cobra *Naja atra*

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LEPIDOSIS OF FEMALE NAJA ATRA AND NAJA SPUTATRIX

Given that there is potentially considerable variation in morphology, including in the fang structure (Wüster & Thorpe, 1992), within species that occupy a very wide geographical range, information about the lepidosis of the two cobra species used in this study are reported below. Scale terminology follows Schulz (1996).

Naja atra (adult female, black/banded phenotype)

Scale count: 173 ventrals, 44 subcaudals, 21 dorsals (mid-body), single anal plate.

Head scales: 1 rostral, 2 internasal, 2 prefrontals, 1 frontal, 2 supraoculars, 2 parietals, 2 nasals, 1 preocular, 3 postoculars, 2 anterior temporals, 1 posterior temporal, 7 labials

Naja sputatrix (adult female, brown phenotype)

Scale count: 188 ventrals, 48 subcaudals, 19 dorsals (mid-body), single anal plate.

REFERENCE

- Schulz K. D. (1996). *A monograph of the colubrid snakes of the genus Elaphe Fitzinger*, Koeltz Scientific Books. Havlikuv Brod.