

# New Venomous Snake Found

A new species of venomous snake which was first found in Western Australia in late 1979 has been named *Brachyaspis atriceps* by staff from the Western Australian Museum.

The snake was collected in October 1979 by P. Griffin and G. Barron of the Museum while exploring open eucalypt woodland on sandy soil at Lake Cronin, about 90 kilometres east of Hyden.

Only one other specimen has since been collected and that was from the same area.

The snake is relatively small, the captured specimen measuring less than 0.5m. The top and sides of its head are matt black, and its upper lips narrowly edged with white. The rest of the upper and lateral surfaces are moderately dark brown with the exception of a small section behind the black of its neck which is brownish-white. Underneath, the snake is mostly pale reddish-brown.



▲ *Brachyaspis atriceps*. (Photo R.E. Johnstone W.A. Museum)