



***Poisonous animals 1.4 Russel viper :***

***Scientific Name :*** *Vipera russelli*, *Daboia russelli*.

***Geographical Distribution :*** All over India.

***Identification :*** This is a brownish, stout snake, growing up to several feet in length

- The head is triangular, with a '**V**' shaped mark (apex pointing forward), and is covered with small scales. Pupils are vertical.
- Fangs are long, channelised, and hinged, being erected at the time of striking
- There are **3 rows of chained dark spots over the entire body**. The Russell's viper is known to hiss loudly when agitated. Like other vipers, **it is viviparous**.

***Nature of Venom***

Predominantly **vasculo- and haemotoxic**, but is able to produce neurotoxic effects also.

**Acute renal failure and adrenal insufficiency** have also been associated with this snake.

***Antidote :*** ***Antisnake venom (ASV)***