

INTERESTING REPTILES

DRACO

Draco is an arboreal insectivorous reptile capable of gliding (passive flight) and hence is popularly known as 'flying reptile'.

They have thin membranous structures called patagia, supported by ribs present along the abdomen for gliding. A small set of flaps are present on the neck which serve as horizontal stabilizers. They never glide when it is raining or when it is windy. These interesting reptiles are found in Western Ghats.



SKINK



First appeared about 40 million years ago during early cretaceous era. The word skink comes from classical Greek word 'skinkos'.

Carnivorous and mainly feeds on insects.

Occur in ecosystem ranging from deserts, mountains to grasslands.

Viviparous or ovoviviparous, which give birth to young ones.

Burrowing animals and spend their time in underground digging out tunnels for easy navigation. Use their tongue to sniff the air to track their prey. Blood is green in colour because of the build-up of the waste product, biliverdin.

CALOTES

Calotes is a lizard in the draconine clade of the family agamidae, containing 27 species.

Some are forest lizards, others "blood suckers" due to their red heads. Native to South Asia, southern China, main land Southeast Asia. Calotes is distinguished from related genera in having uniform size dorsal scales, and lacking a fold of skin extending between cheek and shoulder and stronger limbs than pseudocalotes. Feed on insects and small vertebrates. Males exhibit territoriality during breeding season.

