

Close-up of the birthing process of the venomous snake with the longest fangs in the world

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The video above captures a rare close-up of the Gaboon viper giving birth - the heaviest venomous snake in Africa.

The Gaboon viper is the largest viper in Africa. Its coloration and broad head, which mimics a fallen leaf, allow it to camouflage easily among the rotting leaves on the forest floor. Despite its venom, this snake is calm in nature and rarely bites humans.

The Gaboon viper's coloration is a combination of light and dark brown, pink and purple arranged in a diamond pattern and striped along its back. Light and dark lines radiate from around its small eyes.

It has a short tail and a wide head that mimics a fallen leaf, all the way down to the midrib. This striking pattern is an excellent camouflage in the snake's native habitat, helping it blend in with the fallen leaves. Therefore, if you go into the forest without paying attention, it will be difficult to detect the Gaboon viper. The lifespan of the Gaboon viper is about 20 years. Notably, this is a species of snake that gives birth to live young, which is little known.

The female Gaboon snake is pregnant for 7 months. Each litter can contain up to 30 snakes. The snakes are born covered in a membrane. The newborn snakes are up to 30 cm long.



The Gaboon viper lives mainly in the rainforests of sub-Saharan Africa. It has the longest fangs in the world (5 cm), which allows it to secrete the highest dose of venom of any venomous snake.

This dangerous venomous snake can grow up to 1.8m long, weighing an average of 7-10kg, the heaviest individual discovered weighed up to 20kg.

Gaboon vipers are only active at night. They move very slowly and are quite docile. Their food is mainly small mammals, birds, frogs.

There are currently about 3,400 - 3,550 species of snakes in the world, divided into about 500 genera and more than 20 families. Snakes have a variety of reproductive forms including giving birth, laying eggs and laying ovoviviparous. Of these, the most common is laying eggs with about 70%. Next is giving birth and finally laying ovoviviparous.

In addition to the Gaboon viper, other live-bearing snakes include sea snakes, garter snakes, water lily snakes, bearded snakes, elephant snakes, green vipers, white-lipped vipers.

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