


THE 30 MOST VENOMOUS SNAKES IN THE WORLD

 **Median lethal dose**
(a lower number is indicative of greater toxicity)

Median lethal dose (LD₅₀) is a way to measure the lethal dose of a toxin or pathogen or radiation. The value determines the **lethal dose required to kill 50% of a population**. The median lethal doses of snake species' venom have been determined through testing on mice. While this is not a 100% accurate measure of how lethal the snake venom is to humans, it serves as an indication of how deadly the venom of these snakes are.

Inland taipan
Venom can kill a grown human being in as little as 30-45 minutes if untreated. It's estimated that one bite delivers enough venom to kill at least 100 full-grown men.

LD₅₀ 0.01 mg/kg

Inland, central Australia



Dubois's sea snake
Lives at depths up to 262 feet, feeding on eels and fish around coral reefs

LD₅₀ 0.044 mg/kg

Tropical ocean waters



Eastern brown snake
Extremely fast-moving; may be able to outpace a human running at full speed

LD₅₀ 0.053 mg/kg


Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia



Yellow-bellied sea snake
Has a distinct ability to swim backward

LD₅₀ 0.067 mg/kg

Tropical ocean waters



Peron's sea snake
The only sea snake with spines on its head

LD₅₀ 0.079 mg/kg

Taiwan Strait, Coral Sea islands, Gulf of Thailand, western Pacific Ocean



Coastal taipan
To kill prey, the snake freezes before striking several times. The prey is released and allowed to stagger away as the venom works, minimizing the snake's exposure to retaliation.

LD₅₀ 0.099 mg/kg


Australia



Malayan krait
Untreated mortality rate of 70%

LD₅₀ 0.1 mg/kg

Southeast Asia



Many-banded krait
Local symptoms are generally minimal, consisting of itching and numbness. Systematic symptoms occur within six hours, such as weakness, bilateral ptosis, and difficulty breathing.

LD₅₀ 0.108 mg/kg


Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar



Black-banded sea krait
Forms hunting alliances in the hundreds to take down prey such as yellow goatfish and bluefin trevally

LD₅₀ 0.111 mg/kg

Eastern coast of Malay Peninsula, Brunei, Indonesia, Fiji, Japan



Beaked sea snake
Accounts for more than 50% of all sea snake bites as well as the majority of poisonings and fatalities

LD₅₀ 0.1125 mg/kg

Tropical Indo-Pacific



Black tiger snake
One study showed that 40-60% of untreated bites are fatal.

LD₅₀ 0.131 mg/kg

Australia



Banded water cobra
Venom of these species is not well-studied but is considered dangerously neurotoxic

LD₅₀ 0.143 mg/kg

Africa



Saw-scaled viper
Venom can cause bleeding all over the body, including within the brain

LD₅₀ 0.151 mg/kg


Africa, Middle East, Sri Lanka, Pakistan



Russell's viper
Bleeding from the gums and in the urine occurs within 20 minutes of the bite. Severe pain may last weeks.

LD₅₀ 0.162 mg/kg

India



Common krait
Venom induces muscle paralysis by targeting the synaptic clefts (the points of information transfer between neurons)

LD₅₀ 0.169 mg/kg


India



Mojave rattlesnake
Venom considered one of the most debilitating and deadly produced by rattlesnakes

LD₅₀ 0.18 mg/kg

Southeastern United States and Mexico



Caspian cobra
Antivenom is not as effective for this species as it is for other Asiatic cobras.

LD₅₀ 0.18 mg/kg

Central Asia



Western tiger snake
Grows up to 6.5 feet (2 meters) long

LD₅₀ 0.194 mg/kg

Australia



Philippine cobra
Can spit venom with precision up to 10 feet (3 meters) away

LD₅₀ 0.2 mg/kg

Philippines



Samar cobra
Extremely aggressive; will strike with little provocation

LD₅₀ 0.21 mg/kg

Philippines



Forest cobra
If the snake is cornered or agitated, it will inject more venom through its bite, leading to rapid death.

LD₅₀ 0.225 mg/kg

Africa



Black mamba
Bite can cause a human to collapse within 45 minutes; respiratory failure and death follow in 7-15 hours

LD₅₀ 0.28 mg/kg


Africa



Chinese cobra
Necrosis can persist for many years following a bite.

LD₅₀ 0.29 mg/kg

China and Taiwan



Monocled cobra
Severe cases of envenoming may cause death within 60 minutes.

LD₅₀ 0.373 mg/kg

South Asia



Eastern green mamba
Cases of fatality within 30 minutes have been reported.

LD₅₀ 0.4 mg/kg

East Africa



Cape cobra
Produces a thick and syrupy venom that dries into shiny flakes

LD₅₀ 0.4 mg/kg

Africa



Common death adder
Fastest-striking venomous snake; can envenom prey within 0.15 seconds and be ready to strike again

LD₅₀ 0.4 mg/kg

Australia



Indian cobra
The venom of young Indian cobra is abused as a drug in India, with snake charmers being paid to provide bites from their snakes. Symptoms include loss of consciousness, euphoria, and sedation.

LD₅₀ 0.45 mg/kg

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan



Western brown snake
Bite can lead to rapid death by cardiac arrest, kidney failure, and cerebral hemorrhage

LD₅₀ 0.47 mg/kg


Australia



Dugite
Venom causes death by cardiac arrest, kidney failure, or cerebral hemorrhage

LD₅₀ 0.66 mg/kg

Australia



Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dangerous_snakes
<https://safarisafarica.com>
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