



# Everglades Rat Snake

## *Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni*

Also known as the Eastern Rat Snake

**Description:** Non-venomous snake that grows 4-5 feet long with a rich orange coloring. They have orange eyes and a red tongue. They are naturally good swimmers and will use water to escape danger.

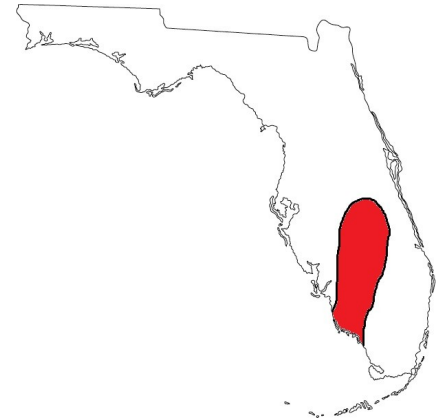
**Habitat:** Everglades and wetland prairies to subtropical hardwood forests, cypress swamplands, and pinelands.

**Range:** Southern Florida.

**Natural diet:** Rodents, lizards, frogs, birds and their eggs.

**Zoo diet:** Mice.

**Life span:** 15-20 years in captivity.



**Behavior:** When frightened they will vibrate their tail and expel a musk.

**Reproduction:** Will begin to seek a mate in late April until June. Females will lay 12-20 eggs. Incubation temperature determines gender. Males are from warmer temperatures and females are from cooler.

**Conservation Status:** Has not been evaluated by the IUCN.