

Characteristics

Long, slender, and fast moving

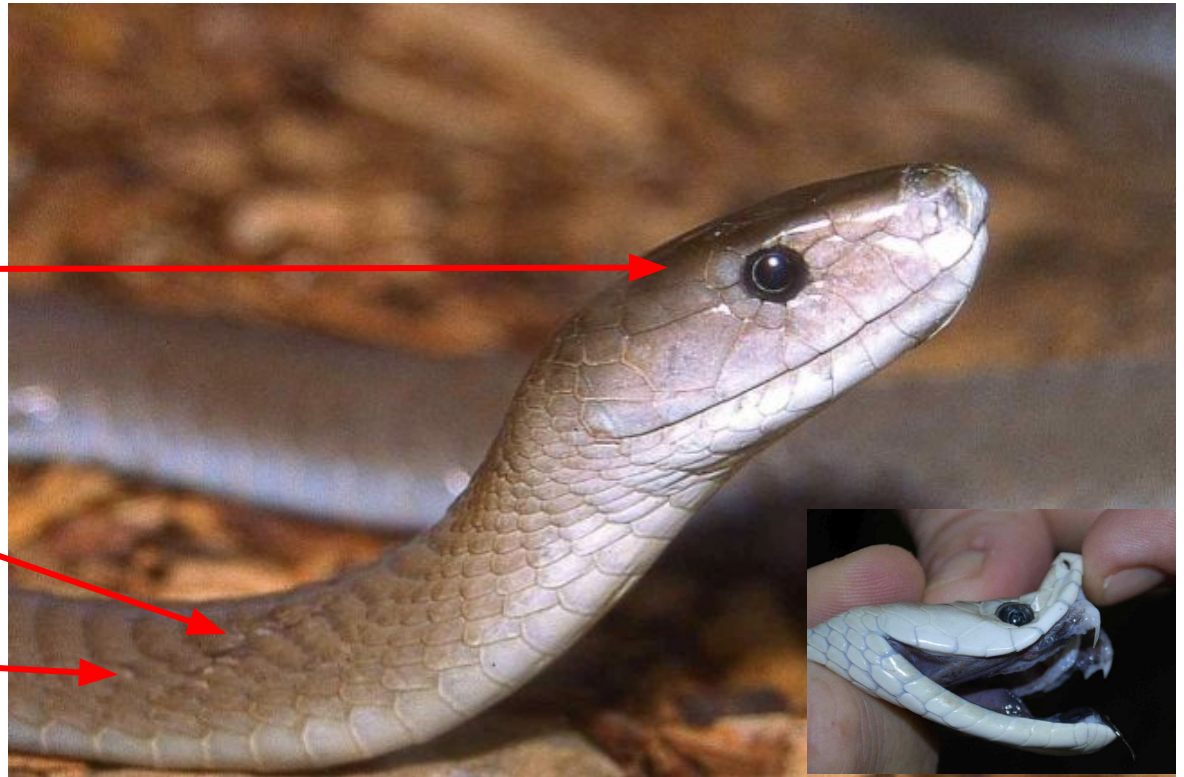
Long, narrow, head shaped like a coffin; medium sized eye with round pupils

Inside of mouth is bluish-black (inset)

Olive, brown, yellow-brown, or gray in color (never black)

Smooth scales

Belly is cream, ivory, or pale green; can be speckling near tail



Black mamba

Dendroaspis polylepis

Photos used with permission from Stephen Spawls

**Dangerous with neurotoxic venom;
a bite = medical emergency**